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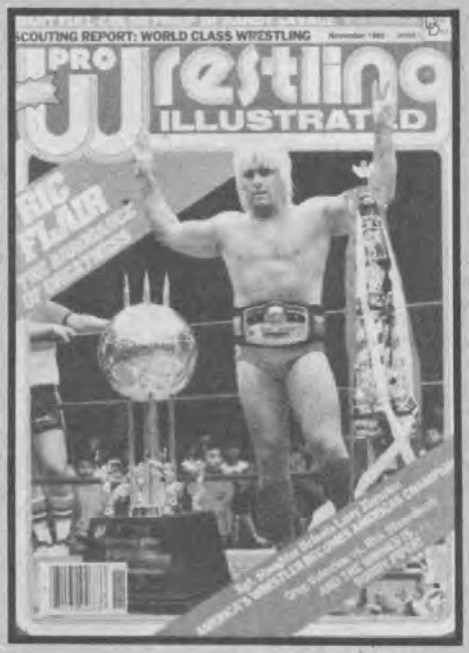
THE CRITICISM OF ARROGANCE

I am writing to you in response to your cover story on the greatest wrestler in the world, Ric Flair, in your November 1985 issue. I feel that Craig Peters did the best job on that story that I've ever seen. I think that everyone should represent professional wresting the way Ric Flair does, suit and tie, clean, wealthy, and arrogant. I feel what Magnum T.A. did to the $1,500 hand-tailored suit that Ric Flair gave him was an utterly disgusting thing to do. Ric Flair was only trying to demonstrate to Magnum how a professional wrestler should present himself.

Also, what Flair said about Hulk Hogan completely changed my views about him. Hogan is nothing but a brawler in the ring. He has no scientific knowledge whatsoever. All he knows how do to is legdrop and elbowsmash. Flair proves he is the greatest wrestler in the world night after night by wrestling the best in the world,



and winning. Thank you for a wonderful piece.

DAVID RIBEIRO
Stoughton, MA

Your cover story in the November '85 issue of *PWI* was well-conceived, well-written, and well worth the cover price, mainly because our family has a new puppy and we need all the paper we can get our hands on.

For a veteran writer like Craig Peters to fall prey to the moneyed charms of Ric Flair is about the last thing I would ever expect. I'd sooner expect it from Matt Brock than from Peters, who had earned my respect over the years with his level-headed observations about the sport of wrestling.

Ric Flair is an abomination of the human condition. His "money is everything" attitude is indictment enough, but he wishes to dig his own grave by cheating and disqualifying himself in almost every match he enters. That he should attempt to buy the charms of the senior writer of the most respected magazine in the world comes as no surprise. But that Peters should fall for it is a shock. Shame on you, Craig Peters. We expect better next time.

MICHELLE LaPLANTE
Los Angeles

King Tonga takes The Iron Sheik over and down.

O CANADA

Canadian International Wrestling is the backbone of wrestling. Canadian International Wrestling has provided the world with some of its best wrestlers, among them Gino Brito, Dino Bravo, and King Tonga to name just a few. Both Ric Flair and Rick Martel coveted the Canadian heavyweight championship before winning their world titles, and that belt remains today among the most prestigious in all of wrestling. Your neighbors to the

(Continued on page 46)

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RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

THE WORLD CLASS area boasts several new champions as we go to press: The Texas championship and the six-man title recently changed hands, both on Labor Day in Fort Worth, Texas.

In an exciting six-man battle, **Kerry** and **Kevin Von Erich** teamed with **Brian Adidas** to win the World Class six-man championship from **Gary Hart's** combination of **Killer Brooks**, **Mark Lewin**, and **One Man Gang** when Kevin scored a pinfall victory over Lewin.

And while Adidas gained a portion of the six-man title, he lost his World Class Texas title to **Gino Hernandez**, who regained the title he had lost to Adidas back on July 29 in Fort Worth.

"It was really quite a day for me, obviously," Adidas told **Pro Wrestling Illustrated.** "Talk about mixed feelings! Our victory over Gary Hart's team was sensational, and I feel so good about that it's unbelievable. I'm proud to have gained a championship alongside my friends Kevin and Kerry. But on the other hand, losing the Texas title to Gino was a big disappointment. Maybe the pressure of wrestling more than one match that day got to me. I really don't know, to be honest. I guess you win some, and you lose some. On Labor Day, I had a little of both!"

Gino Hernandez regained the World Class Texas title from Brian Adidas on the same card that Adidas, Kerry Von Erich, and Kevin Von Erich won the six-man title from Killer Brooks, Mark Lewin, and One Man Gang.

In other recent title news, **Kendell Windham**, the younger brother of WWF star **Barry Windham**, captured the Florida heavyweight title from **Jack Hart** in Tampa, Florida. That was a part of the big "Battle of the Belts" card at The Sundome that featured, among other matches, a two-out-of-three-fall victory by NWA World champion **Ric Flair** over **Wahoo McDaniel** and a wild double-disqualification brawl between **The Road Warriors** and the team of **Stan Hansen** and **Harley Race**.

Rookie Kendell Windham gained his first major title when he defeated Florida champion Jack Hart in Tampa.

I wonder if **Jimmy Hart** tried to stuff the ballot box in the WWF's Manager of the Year voting the way

(Continued on page 49)

KING'S COURT

By Peter King

THIS MONTH'S COLUMN is one of the hardest I have ever had to write. It is about Andre the Giant.

I have been following Andre's career for more than 10 years. I can still recall his early days in the sport, when he wrestled under the name of "Jean Ferre." He was young then, and his talent was unquestionable. His 7'5" supported a weight of just over 400 pounds. He was remarkably agile for a man his size, and remarkably fit, too.

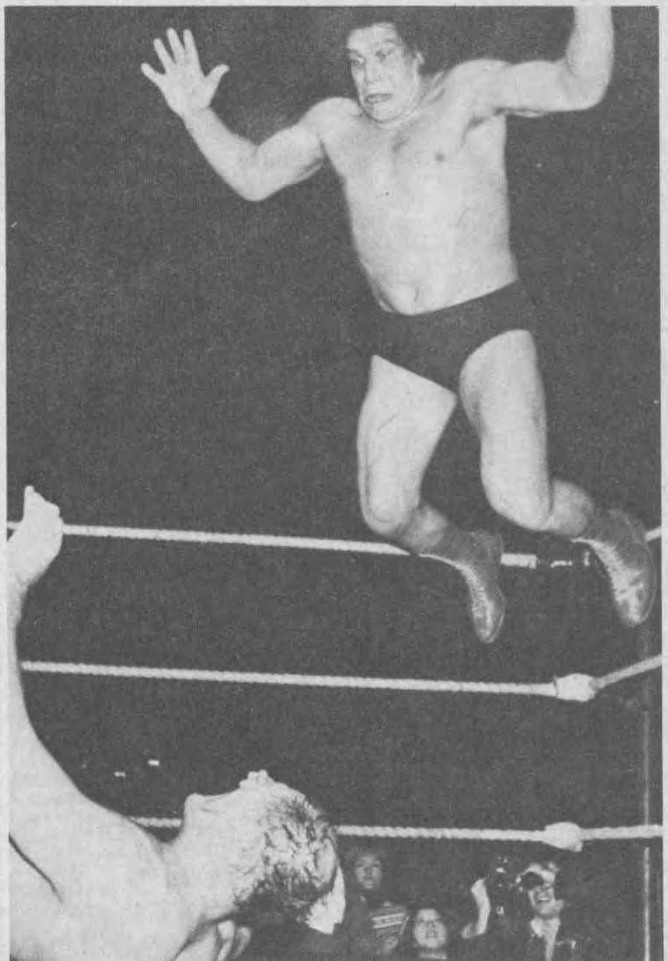
The Andre the Giant who wrestles today is a completely different man. He can barely move in the ring. His weight, which must be more than 500 pounds, is centered in a belly that is grotesquely distended. There are few athletes anywhere who are as out of shape as Andre.

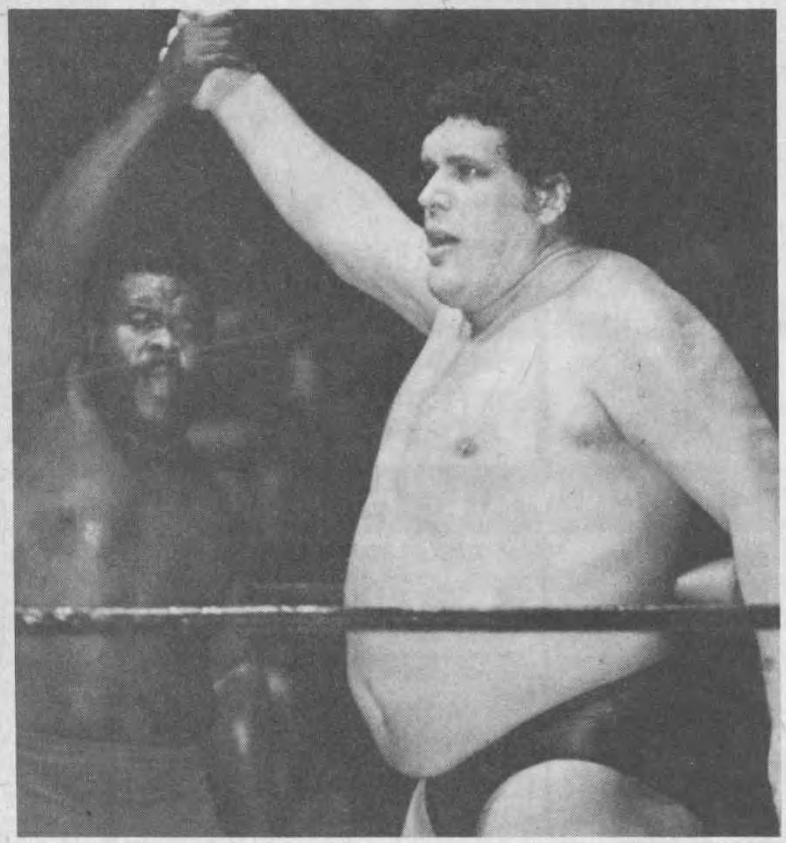
True, Andre maintains his undefeated record. But those who love the sport know it's not because of any wrestling ability. He wins because of sheer bulk. Talent has nothing to do with it. Sadly, Andre has become a sideshow attraction in the WWF freak show.

What are we to think when we hear Vince McMahon describe Andre as "the greatest athlete in the world today, perhaps in history." The objective among us would dismiss this as harmless hype. The more cynical would point to the fact that McMahon owns the promotional rights to Andre's career. Whatever, there are few, if any, people who believe this anymore.

To those new fans of wrestlinng who look at Andre today and snicker, I say, you should have seen him in his prime. You should have seen his titanic struggles with Killer Kowalski and Don Leo Jonathan. You wouldn't laugh at Andre. You'd be too sad to do so.

(Continued on page 52)





Andre the Giant, weighing in at approximately 400 pounds, displays incredible agility in a 1972 match against Killer Kowalski (left). As Andre and Junkyard Dog raise their hands in victory after a recent match, the extra 100 pounds is quite visible (below).

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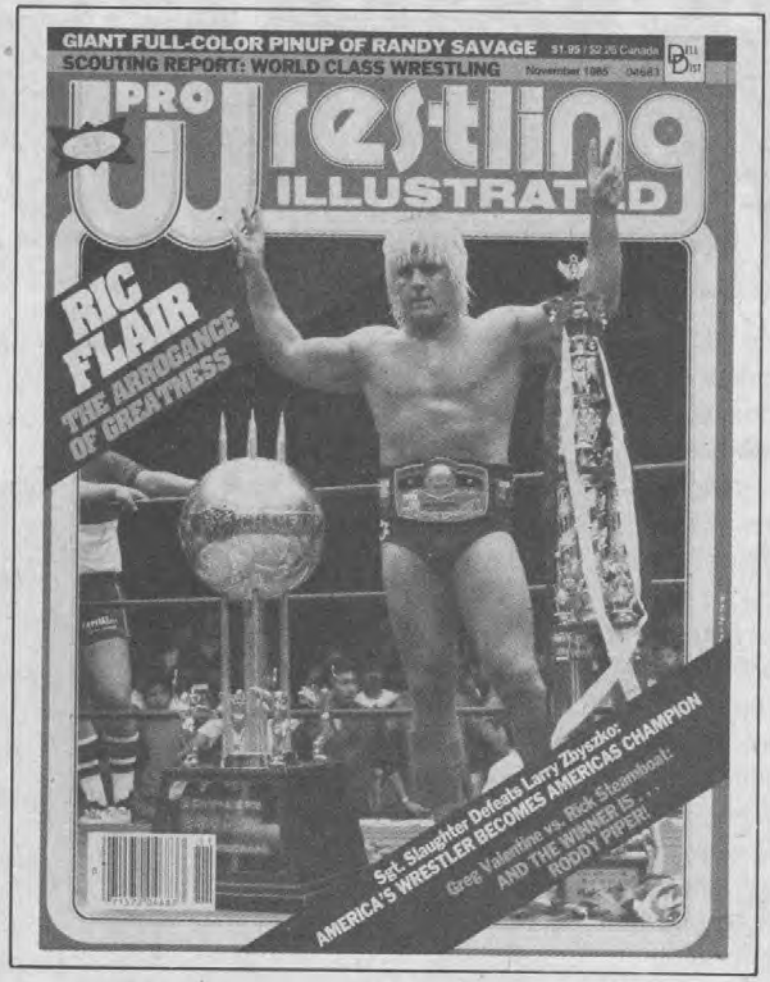
GIANT FULL-COLOR PINUP OF RANDY SAVAGE
SCOUTING REPORT: WORLD CLASS WRESTLING
PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED
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DRESSING ROOM CONFIDENTIAL

By Stu Saks

TELL ME THIS isn't one of the most frustrating experiences: You're sitting in the stands at a wrestling match. Behind you is a group of fans talking among themselves. They are knowledgeable fans. At least they think so. You know better.

The things they are saying to each other are ridiculous. Their facts are totally wrong. You know they have never picked up a wrestling magazine in their lives. You want to say something, but you stop yourself. If you correct them, you run the risk of them saying something like, "Hey, buddy, don't you have anything better to do than listen to somebody else's conversation?"

Face it, there are a lot of fans in the arenas who have no idea what is going on in the sport. They watch the matches on TV, go to the matches in their local arenas, and enjoy themselves. There's nothing wrong with that. There are two levels of wrestling fans. They're on one level and you're on another. Though I'm sure that these "arena fans" would enjoy the matches more if they knew more about the sport, I certainly won't condemn anybody for just wanting to have a good time, regardless of how uninformed they are.

My beef is with those promoters

(Continued on page 54)

Randy Savage and Lanny Poffo pose in front of their father, Angelo Poffo. What is the WWF's rationale for not informing the fans that Randy and Lanny are brothers?

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WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

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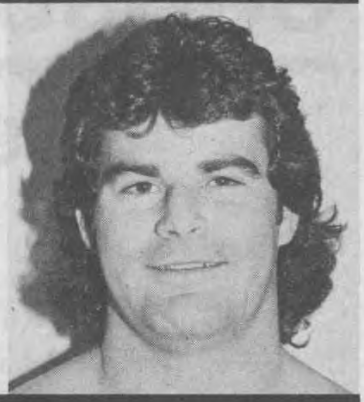
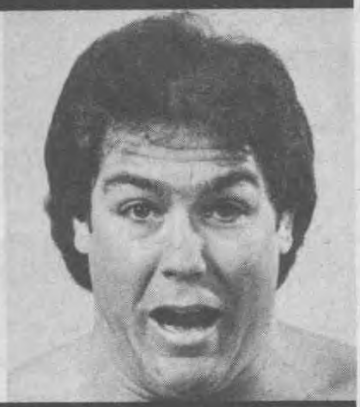


BRIAN ADIDAS

"I'm proud to be the man who'll drive Gino Hernandez out of Texas. That half-breed, half-wit, half-talent couldn't wrestle his way out of a chili-soaked tortilla. The good people of Texas need a man who'll defend the tenets of scientific wrestling. My buddies the Von Erichs can't do it all. Gino's running scared, and I'll be very happy to see him cross the Rio Grande and steer his ugly puss due north."

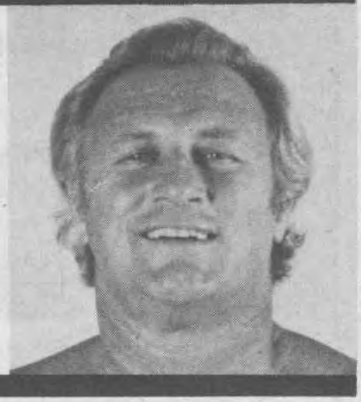
RON BASS

"I just can't seem to trust anybody nowadays. Fan favorites betrayed me, rulebreakers betrayed me, and they both gang up on me after they figure they're sick of me. Well, I don't care about all that; if I gotta grudge against some hoss, you better dang well believe it means war. And that means you, J.J. Dillon. I don't have no hypersensitive hide, but when a slimeball like Dillon hogties my neck and hangs me from a ringpost, I gotta get revenge."



TULLY BLANCHARD

"I'm the *man* to face that fruity scumbucket Ric Flair, and everybody knows that. I've beaten Magnum Moustache to within an inch of his life, and now he wants to quit wrestling and re-form The Village People. I've sent T.A., Rusty Dusty, Ragin' B.S. and countless prelim bums to the hospital every night of the past three months. I'm sick of lookin' at other people's x-rays, I want the champion, Ric Flair. If I don't get a match with him soon, Baby Doll and I will sue the NWA."



NICK BOCKWINKEL

"Yes sir, the AWA is crumbling like the fabled walls of Babylon. Rick Martel has disgraced the belt I legitimized a decade ago. Every AWA champion is afraid of me: The cute little Canuck won't give me a rematch, Slaughter knows I can wrestle without gimmickry, even the overrated Road Warriors are scared stiff of my partnerships with Larry Zbyszko and Crippler Stevens. To put it succinctly, I am the greatest wrestler in AWA history!"

KING KONG BUNDY

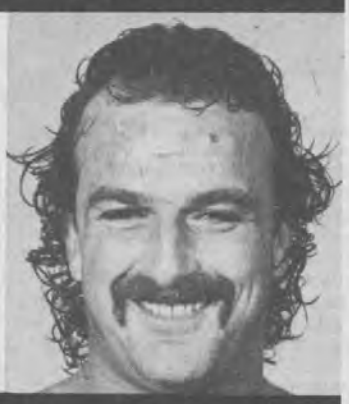
"Ever since I came to the WWF, I've been hearing Andre this, Andre that, 'til it makes me wanna puke! Listen, Andre, I am the biggest and strongest man in professional wrestling! I set the record for the fastest pin in Madison Square Garden history. And I'm gonna be the guy to pin your fat Frog shoulders to the canvas for a five-count! No 'giant' can withstand the force of my Atlantic City Avalanche!"

HARLEY RACE

"Let me put it this way; the rumors of Harley Race's death have been greatly exaggerated. I've obliterated an overweight and undertrained Jerry Blackwell for the Missouri State title, the traditional steppingstone to the 10 pounds of gold. And make no mistake about it; I *will* win the NWA World title for an eighth time. My only problem is trying to get Flair to sign for a match. He knows I hold the unofficial record for 2½ counts scored in title matches, and he's running scared, as usual."

JAKE ROBERTS

"I never knew how pleasing the cheers of the fans would be. In the past I'd been brainwashed by creeps like Kevin Sullivan and Paul Jones and Paul Ellering. I thought I'd be able to re-establish my identity if I wrestled without a manager, so I wanted to go it alone. That's a big mistake in this sport. When Humperdink and The Barbarian, and The Nightmare tried to kill me, I realized a successful wrestler needs friends he count on. Like The Fantastics. Like Dick Murdoch. Like the fans."



PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE

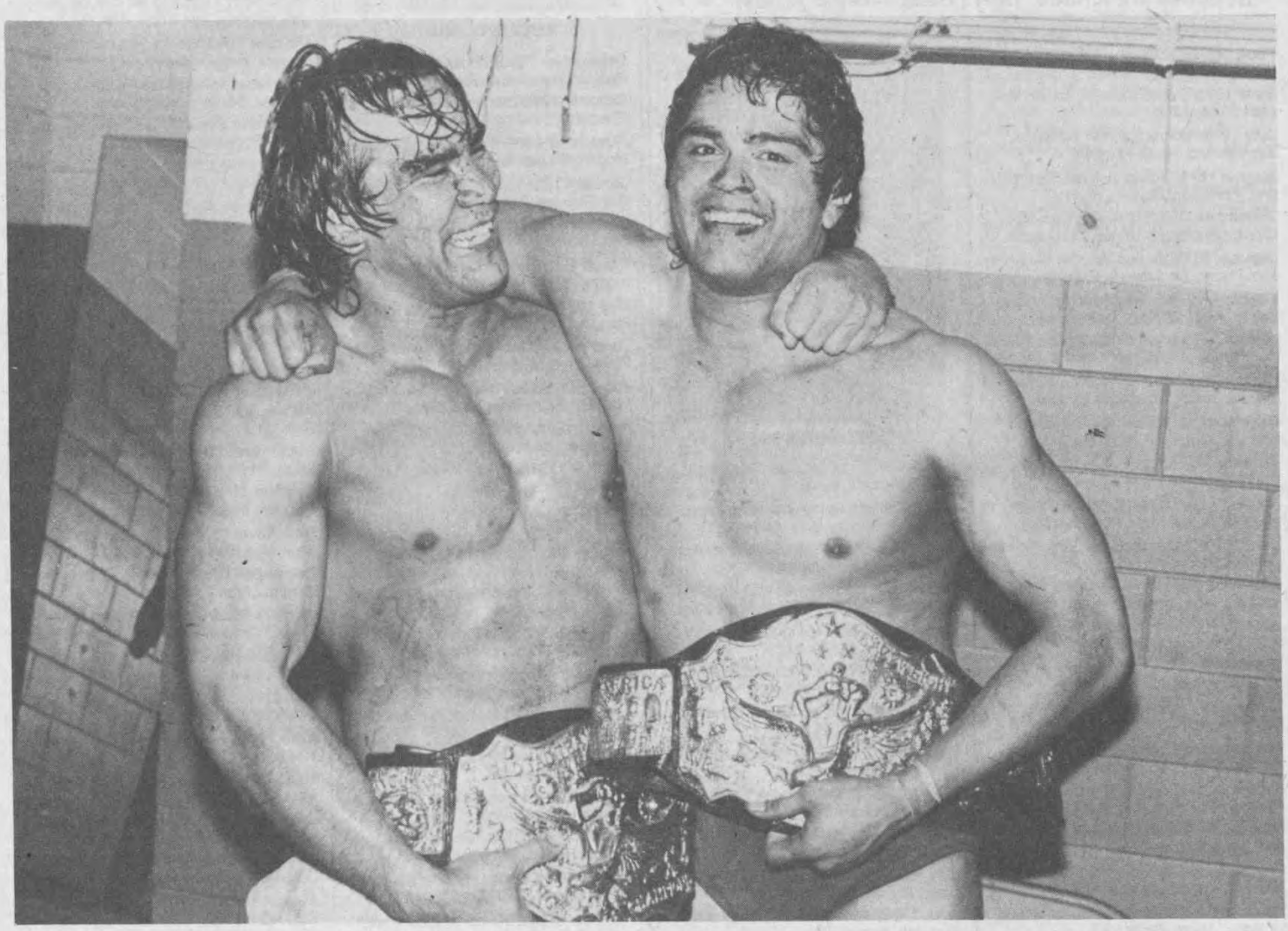
"I'm sick and goddamn tired of all these retards callin' me 'Fatso' here in Florida! There are two generic brands of fans in the Sunshine State: Heinekin-guzzling postpubescents in muscle shirts, and retired welders eatin' cube steak in front of *Family Feud* and worryin' about their wives with Alzheimer's Disease. Nothin' but cretinous beer-swillin' tubbos and they got the nerve to call me fat! I'm just glad I can take in Brenda Britton's aerobics lessons so I can stay in shape!"

BARRY WINDHAM

"I can't believe it! This is the *second* time Mike Rotondo and I have lost our title because of blatant interference! We've tried to establish a scientific tradition for the great WWF fans all over the country, and now Valentine and that Beef Jerky idiot get their smelly hands on our belts. Well look out, Hammer, and look out, Brutie, we're gonna get our revenge and our title back. The fans are counting on us, and we *won't* let 'em down!"

ON ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER



Rick Steamboat and the late Jay Youngblood celebrate their NWA World tag team title victory over Sgt. Slaughter and Don Kernodle in March 1983.

LET'S TALK GLAMOUR. And I mean *Glamour.* Chanel, not Calvin Klein. Perry Ellis, not Levi Strauss. Henri Bendel, not Gimbels. Rodeo Drive, not Madison Ave. *Dynasty,* not *Miami Vice.*

A night of elegance starts early in the morning, before I'm even out of bed, when my sleep is interrupted by the delivery boy hauling two dozen red and yellow roses to my door, with an enclosed note hinting at covert pleasures to come, signed by a man I do not know. As I race out my door (like always, a desperate 10 seconds behind the morning bus), I'm stopped by a uniformed man, strange and handsome, who motions me into his limousine, parked obtrusively in front of Mrs. Mandelbaum's '76 Plymouth Fury. Although I've avoided candy from strangers my whole life, there is too much magnetism from the car and from the man to resist.

No sooner am I seated in such naughty opulence, seeing the world through the ritzy lens of the car's blackened windows, than I am here at work, in my office, the past hour now nothing more than a blink of fantasy, the product of rich imagination.

But, no, this is for real because at noon I'm called to the front office by the secretaries, who themselves are standing collectively with their mouths open, and hints of girlish awe minced with jealousy color their mugs. Facing me are two sculptures: Two men so

(Continued on page 58)

BY EDDIE ELLNER

off the Top Rope

If you wish to contribute to Ellner's mailbag, send your letters to:

TOP ROPE, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571

[Editor's Note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily represent the editorial views of this magazine.]

MOST OF THE letters I've received have encouraged me to leave Dan Shocket's attitude behind and start fresh. To these people I say again: I am my own man with my own ideas, but Danny Shocket's imprint on this column is unmistakable and forever lasting. If you want a good meal, don't go to McDonald's. If you've been handed the golden eggs, as I have, you don't make an omelette with them. If you ***don't*** *want to be provoked out of your glass-house secure, boring existence, then* ***don't*** *read this column. The natives here are not friendly, nor do they wish to be.*

Chris Adams must learn that the ultimate worth of any wrestler lies in his ability to stand alone. Surrounding himself with the flotsam and jetsam pictured will do him no good. Break away, Chris, before it's too late.

Dear Mr. Ellner,

A word about Chris Adams. First he camps with the Von Erichs, then with Sunshine, then Gary Hart, and now Gino Hernandez. When will he realize that he is good enough to make it on his own? By making it, I mean winning one of the world titles from either Ric Flair or Rick Martel.

AMY S. CORNELL
Iselin, NJ

Dear Ms. Cornell,

I like Chris Adams, but I thought he would develop faster than he has. You're partially correct in pinning the blame for his arrested development on his dependence on other people. I think his problem is simply that he's been around the World Class area for too long. He's stale. He has become predictable. His controlled fits of rage are now impotent gestures. I suggest Adams move to Japan, or Cleveland, or some equally exotic location. What he needs is new surroundings and new opponents. At the rate he's going, he and Kevin Von Erich will be fighting it out in some Dallas geriatric ward in the year 2015. A change of scenery could put Gentleman Chris right back on top.

Dear Eddie Ellner,

I hope you're not going to agree with Dan Shocket about the kind of wrestler Billy Jack Haynes is. You seem sane enough to at least comprehend the kind of ability a man like Haynes has, and if you don't then you're as stupid as Shocket was. Within two years, he will be the NWA champion and that's a fact, jack. You

(Continued on page 60)

IN FOCUS

With CRAIG PETERS

THE *PWI* FAN PHOTO CONTEST

HULK HOGAN VS. MAGNIFICENT MURACO, BY LESTER PINGER

It's really kind of remarkable when I stop to think about it: This month's fan photo is the *first* WWF photo since the fan photo contest began 10 months ago. That's amazing, considering the number of WWF live shows being promoted monthly . . . or maybe it's not so amazing, considering how the WWF frowns on fans with cameras.

At any rate, this month actually features two winners: Marc Menachem and his grandfather Lester Pinger. Mr. Pinger has been attending matches at New York's Madison Square Garden for nearly 15 years, always watching the matches from the fourth row (a spot he's been fortunate enough to occupy for most of those 15 years).

But Mr. Pinger recently decided to move from New York to Florida, and won't be seen in his familiar MSG fourth row seat anymore. The last MSG show he saw featured a wild brawl between WWF World heavyweight champion Hulk Hogan and Magnificent Muraco (the second of three Hogan-Muraco MSG bouts).

Mr. Pinger took his grandson to the Garden that night, and he took this photo hoping to win a T-shirt for young Marc. Congratulations, Mr. Pinger, this photo, and your T-shirt, will be a fine pair of souvenirs for your grandson.

"In Focus" welcomes your photos. Each issue, "In Focus" will print the best fan photo of the month, and award that person a *PWI* T-shirt. All photos must be black and white. They become the property of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* and cannot be returned.

A short description of the match along with the name of the arena and the final result of the match would be appreciated with your photo. Send your photo to: In Focus c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* Box 48, Rockville Centre, New York, 11571. And don't forget to include your T-shirt size (small, medium, large, extra large).

Good luck!

ANOTHER DOSE OF RHETORICAL QUESTIONS

A lot of readers seem to be having a lot of fun with this feature, so let's dive right in and take a glimpse at this month's mail:

From John Horat, Parma, Ohio: Does Jim Cornette plan to participate in next year's Wimbledon? . . . Will the Von Erichs ever wrestle on a regular basis outside of Texas? For that matter, do they know that 49 other states exist? . . . Can anyone take a wrestler named "Brutus Beefcake" seriously? . . . Could Rambo be the next person to try and collect the bounty on Wahoo McDaniel's head? . . . Is it possible to find two brothers more different from each other than Buzz and Brett Sawyer?

From Jeff Sharkey, Hortonville, Wisconsin: Is there anybody who can tell *Pro Wrestling U.S.A.* announcer Doug McCleod when the cameras are rolling, and that his facial expressions are hilariously sickening? . . . Are the following people really needed in wrestling: Jesse Barr, Jim Cornette, Mr. T? . . . Is "The Animal" George Steele going to make another commercial, this time for Stove Top Turnbuckle Stuffing?

JIM CORNETTE, HIS WRESTLERS, & HIS RACKET

Another piece of mail that recently came to my mailbox was the new issue of the "Mat Results" fan bulletin, published by Jay Steele and Bob Closson (for information write to Bob at 2115 Clifton Ave., Springfield, Ohio 45505). In their latest edition, Jay Steele included dozens of rhetorical questions under the column heading "Nobody Asked Me But . . ." Here are a few of my favorites:

Do you get the feeling Baby Doll would've rather spent 30 days with the horse than 30 days with Mr. Rhodes? . . . How many fans feel Jimmy Hart made a career mistake? . . . Did you ever wonder why Paul Ellering is Precious? . . . Could you imagine if George Wells and Don Fargo teamed up? They'd be Wells-Fargo.

PREDICTIONS FOR 1986

Every year at about this time, all the tabloid newspapers sold in the supermarket checkout lines start offering their predictions for 1986, such penetrating prognostications as: President Reagan will appoint a chicken as Secretary of State, Joan Collins will have a sex-change operation and replace Larry Hagman as J.R. in *Dallas,* or (and this one is a hearty perennial) California will fall into the sea as the result of a massive earthquake, killing millions.

Well, there's no reason why the playful, fun-loving folks of *The National Enquirer* or *The Weekly World News* should have all the fun. So what I'd like for you to do is to send *your* predictions (wrestling-oriented, of course) to "In Focus." And if I receive enough good ones, I've been promised a special section in the special double-issue March 1986 year-end edition of *PWI* in which to present your predictions for 1986 to the world.

So break out those crystal balls and send your predictions (serious and silly) to: Predictions 1986 c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated,* Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

A few predictions of my own, just to get you off on the right foot: Wrestlemania II will feature a special handicap match between Andre the Giant and 13 midget wrestlers, with the midget team being managed by Herve Villechaize . . . Magnum T.A. will recapture the U.S. title from Tully Blanchard, then go on to win the NWA World title from Ric Flair . . . Precious Paul Ellering and The Road Warriors will welcome a new member into The Legion of Doom: The Barbarian. □

Solving The Ric Flair Puzzle:

Photos by Chaz Fenn

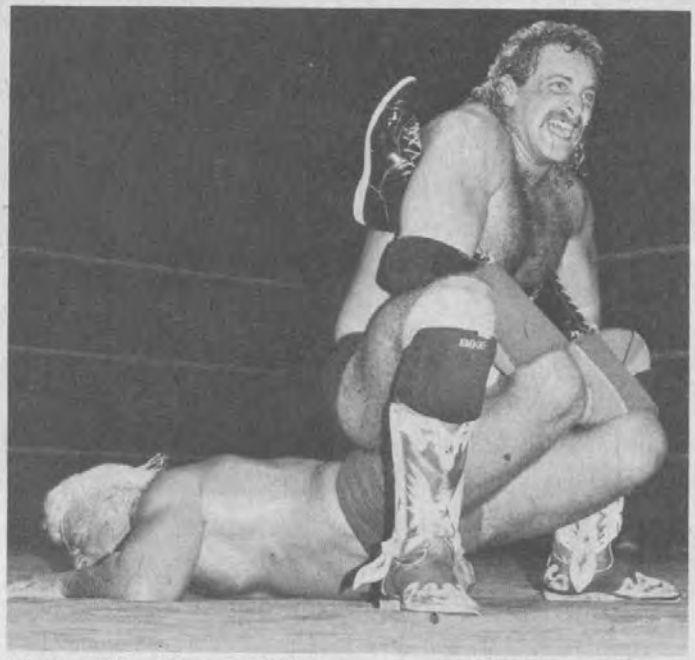
ANOTHER PIECE FALLS INTO PLACE FOR MAGNUM T.A.

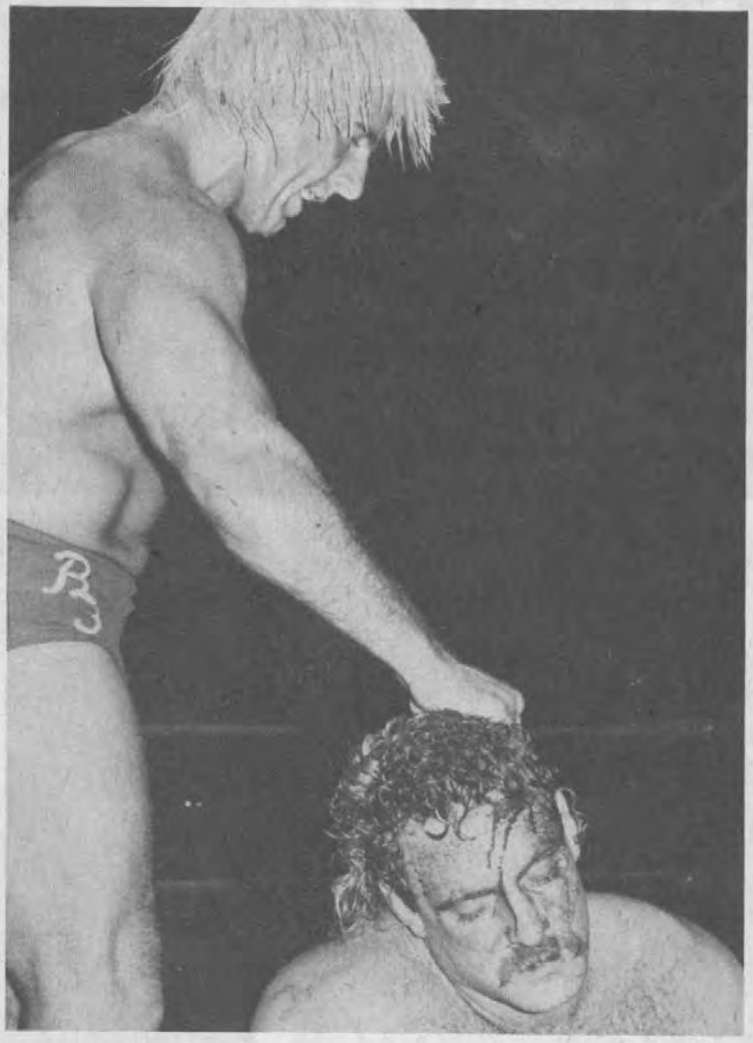
"EEEEKKK! EEEKKK! Magnum T.A.! Over here! Over here!"

A weary Magnum T.A. stopped looking at the red stoplight and directed his gaze toward the left lane where a young woman in the passenger side of a royal blue Audi was hanging half her body outside the window.

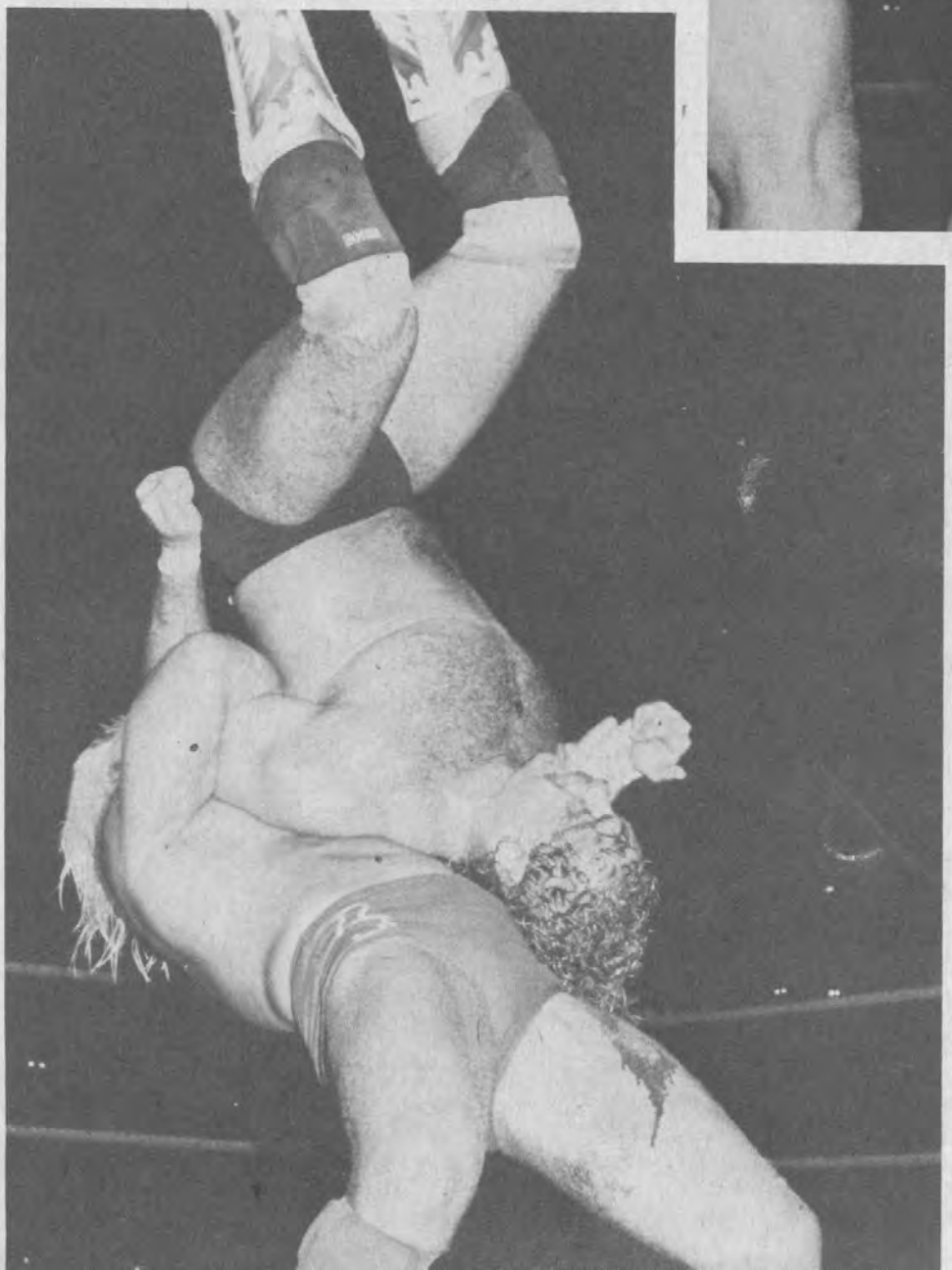
"Ohhhhh, Magnum, we saw your match tonight, and you were so—*ooohhh!* Uh, uh . . ." The woman's sentence ended in a stream of giggles. The woman in the driver's seat hadn't said a word, but she apparently wanted to hide her face shamefully behind the dashboard. Her more aggressive com-

When Magnum T.A. first wrestled Ric Flair, he didn't deserve to be in the same ring with him. Dozens of wars have taught him how to stare greatness straight in the eyes and learn how to vanquish it. It may only be a matter of time before a new world champion is crowned





Magnum T.A. fails to put Flair away with a sleeperhold (opposite page) and a Boston crab (above). T.A.'s blood drips down Flair's leg as the champion executes a suplex (below). Flair has his challenger precisely where he wants him (right). With each match against Flair, regardless of the outcome, Magnum gets closer to his ultimate goal.



panion gasped for breath, attempted composure, and giggled again.

"Oh, Magnum, er, uh, Mr. T.A., I just *knew* you could have pinned Nature Boy tonight. You came *so* close! You ought to be champion! Oh, uh, was it a fast count?" The passenger ran chipped ivory-colored nails through her hair, and a mousey brown wave tumbled down, burying her right eye. Magnum grinned, a little too sternly, and forced himself to be polite; it had been a brutal match, and he ached.

The signal changed.

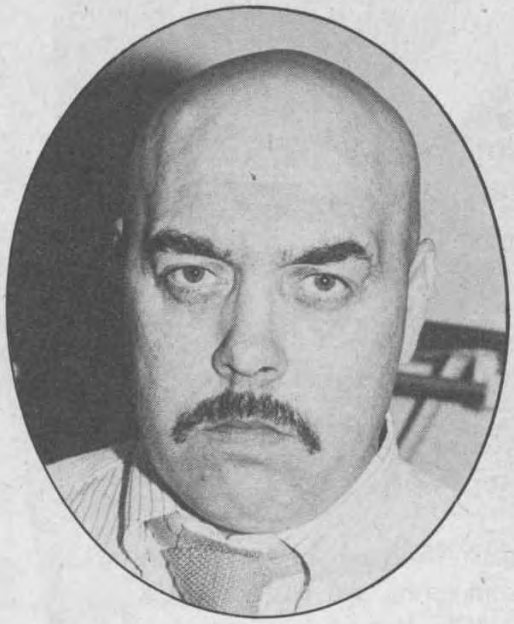
"We love you, Magnum! *Wheee hee hee hee!*" echoed with the screech of their gunned engine in the clear, starry evening. Magnum T.A. puttered along. He was in no hurry to get anywhere except dreamland. Magnum loves his fans; he just wasn't in the mood to talk. He had a lot of mental notes to jot down and review before the night's sleep.

Magnum T.A. was a wrestler in a unique position. He had recently lost one of the most prestigious titles in

(Continued on page 56)

GARY HART: "BRUISER BRODY ISN'T WORTH WHAT THE VON ERICHS ARE PAYING HIM!"

Photos by Buddy Myers

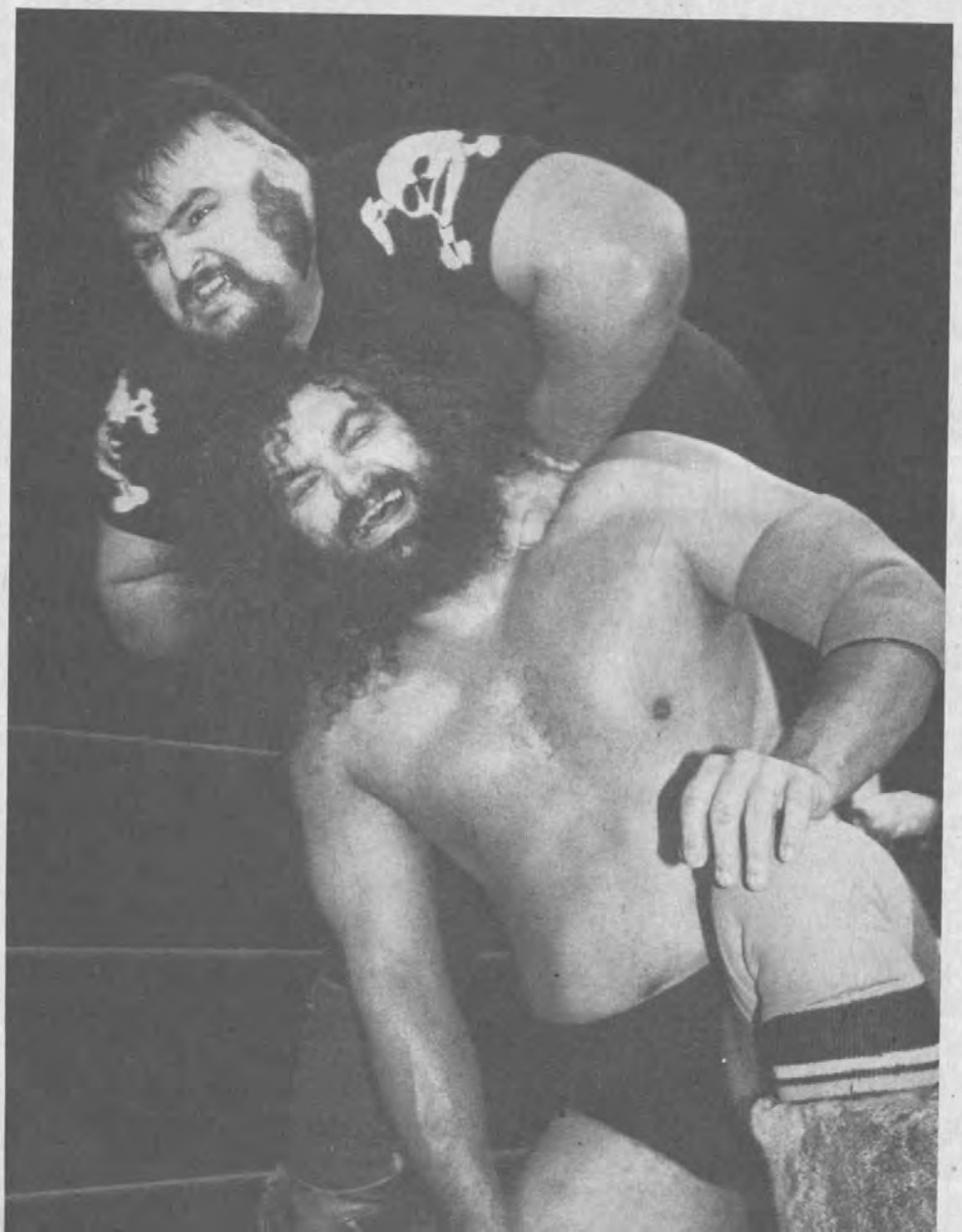


GARY HART TURNED in his chair, and, as the fluorescent office lights danced off his shiny dome, he said, "I'm telling you right now that not only is Fritz Von Erich paying out big money for Bruiser Brody, but he's so scared that Brody will turn on him that he's hired armed bodyguards to protect *himself* from Brody. The idiot is paying money to bodyguards to protect him from a bodyguard he's paying money to to protect his family. Talk about inbreeding! Just imagine that this is a man responsible for bringing four other men just like him into the world. It's frightening. The Von Erichs make cattle seem smart.

"The clincher," Hart continued, "is that Brody is not worth the powder to blow him to hell. He's a washed-up bum getting by on reputation—a reputation that diminishes every time he steps into the ring."

Kerry Von Erich and Bruiser Brody are armed for their battle against One Man Gang and Mark Lewin (above). Gary Hart (in oval) charges that the Von Erichs are paying Brody to protect them from his stable of wrestlers.

It's conceded that Bruiser Brody is among the wildest and most unpredictable wrestlers in the country, yet, according to the controversial Gary Hart, Brody is being paid a retainer by the Von Erich family to protect the brothers from hostile attacks



Lewin takes a running leap at Brody, preventing him from dumping One Man Gang out of the ring (top left). The next time Brody tried it, he would be successful (above). OMG puts the pressure on the Bruiser's trapezius muscles (left).

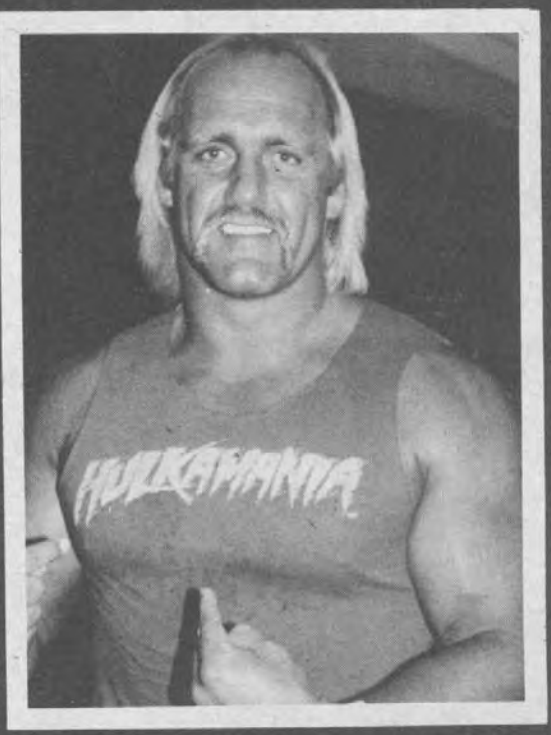
Not suprisingly, Hart denies any jealousy of Brody, whom he managed about five years ago. The breakup, claims Hart, occurred after a match in which, as the outspoken manager puts it, "Brody sucked sour eggs until they hatched." While the statement might seem like vintage Hart nonsense, conventional wisdom has it that Hart became disenchanted with Brody's unmanageable temperament. Accustomed to ruling his charges with an iron fist, Hart couldn't tolerate Brody's sudden deviations from his strategies.

(Continued on page 53)

EXCLUSIVE!

Photos Of A Lifetime!

HULK HOGAN:



FROM THE CRADLE TO THE THRONE

Everyone knows the story of Hulk Hogan. He is, after all, one of the biggest stars in sports. But before he became WWF champion, even before he was discovered playing volleyball on the beach at Venice, California, there was an entire life that had been led. *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* is proud to present an exclusive look back to the formative years of the most celebrated individual in professional wrestling today: The Hulkster—WWF World heavyweight champion Hulk Hogan!

4 months old: "Where's my Iron Sheik doll?"

10 months old: Look at that face!

Coppertone tan!

The publication of this story represents a major publishing event. It's similar in magnitude to ***Penthouse*** *and* ***Playboy*** *magazines acquiring photos of Madonna. These Hulk Hogan photos have never been seen anywhere before. We've been holding these photos in our files waiting for the proper time to print them, and now we think it's time to bring them to you, along with special anecdotes and information from the life history of The Hulkster. We hope you enjoy this feature as much as we enjoy bringing it to you.*

—Peter King

THE MAN THE world knows as Hulk Hogan was born Terry Bollea on August 11, 1953, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Augusta, Georgia. The infant Hulkster weighed 10 pounds, 7 ounces at birth, prompting his mother to say that "at birth he looked as if he were three months old."

From birth, Mrs. Bollea exercised her son's legs, arms, and back, and fed him a special liquid vitamin formula in order to keep him as healthy as possible. This early health training would set the pattern for The Hulkster's life into adulthood; Hogan currently main-

Studying this month's ratings

Running up and down hills at age 2

Uncle Elmer would be proud!

tains a rigid daily schedule of exercise and diet, and he never smokes or drinks.

When Terry was about three, the Bolleas moved from Augusta, Georgia, to Tampa, Florida, and it would be in the Sunshine State that the young Hulkster—nicknamed "Big Train" by his father (presumably due to the fact that he was large for his age!)—would receive his schooling. Young Terry attended Ballast Point Elementary School, James Monroe Junior High School, and Robinson High School, all in Tampa. He was a popular boy, well-liked, and had many friends.

Growing up, young Terry idolized John Wayne and he had several favorites in professional wrestling. His true love, however, was baseball. He began competing in the local Little League when he was about eight years old. When he was 12, The Hulkster was picked to be in a series of all-star games. He pitched the final game, winning by the score of 4-3. In the series, Hulk had 10 hits in 14 times at bat for a .714 batting average!

Two years later, however, The Hulkster would experience his first major sports disappointment: On a cold day in early April, his manager asked him to pitch from a 64-foot distance to the plate in a practice

3-year-old running back

Horsing around at age 4

Age 9: Standing, third from the left

Age 12: Again, standing, third from the left

game before the season opener. (By contrast, the distance from the pitcher's mound to the plate in major league baseball is 60 feet, 6 inches.) Hulk told the manager he was pitching from too far away, but the manager, hoping to strengthen Hulk's arm, told him to go ahead and pitch. Hulk reared back to pitch, and wound up tearing the cartilage in his elbow and split the bone in his pitching arm, due to both the distance involved and the cold weather.

Hulk spent the season with his arm in a cast and a sling; he never pitched again. His baseball career was over at the age of 14.

Though his love of baseball would be stifled, the Hulk's love of music was only beginning to blossom. Hulk had started taking guitar lessons at about the age of 12, and he played in a series of neighborhood bands. Hulk played both lead and rhythm guitar, but soon found that he preferred to play bass guitar.

By the time he was 14, the only time Hogan wasn't practicing his guitar was when he was in the gym. It was at this age that he began lifting weights and developing the physique that would become recognized throughout the world.

A big band leader, at 14 years old

His second band, Koco, at 16 years old

Creating a Rukus at 23

By the time he was in his late teens, The Hulkster's interest in music would lead him to become a member of several professional rock bands, three of which were named "Koco," "Ruckus," and "Infinity's End." Like most struggling rock groups, they used the money they earned on their engagements to buy amplifiers and the various equipment they needed in order to upgrade their sound.

In the meantime, after graduating from high school in 1971, Hulk went on to Hillsboro Community College where he studied business administration for two years, and then to the University of South Florida for two years, where he majored in business administration and music.

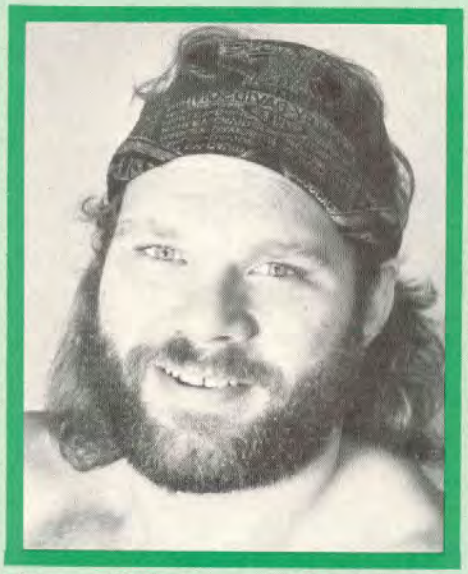
At the start of 1977, Hulk had all the band equipment he needed, so he began using the money he was earning to pay for developing his skills in a new field: wrestling. Hulk took wrestling lessons from one of the true masters of the mat sport, Hiro Matsuda.

In the years to follow, he would become Sterling Golden, Terry Boulder, and, after being discovered by Freddie Blassie in Venice, California, Hulk Hogan. From cradle to throne: Hulk Hogan as you've never seen him before! □

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED
T.V. SPORTS

CLOSE-UP

HACKSAW DUGGAN

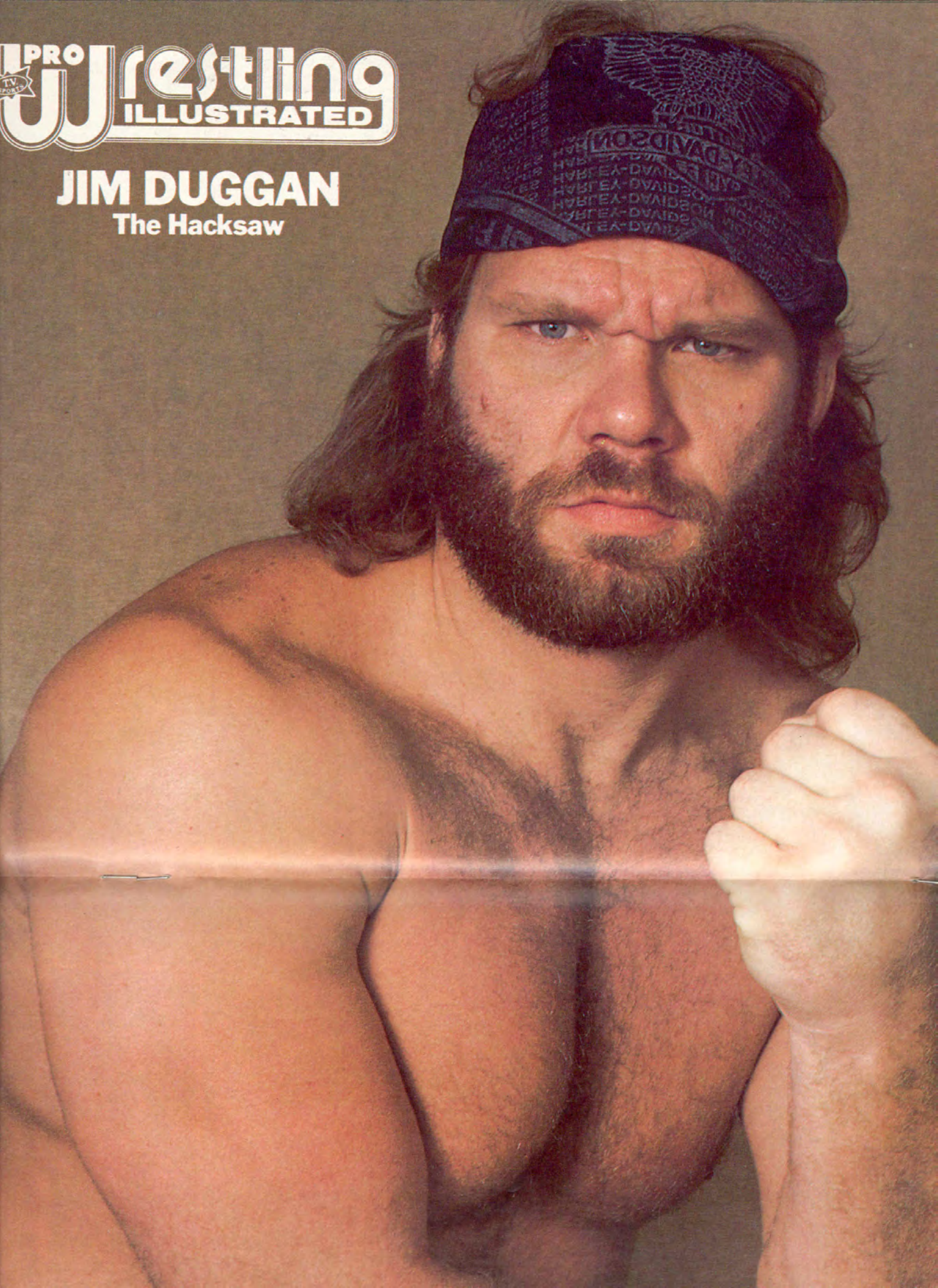


THE BIG MAN from Glens Falls, New York, has become a permanent fixture on the exciting Mid-South wrestling scene . . . Stands 6'3" and weighs 275 pounds . . . Grew up playing football in grade school and high school . . . All his life, Duggan was aiming for a career in the pro football ranks . . . As high school was drawing to a close, Duggan began visiting colleges to choose among his many scholarship offers . . . During a trip to Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Duggan met Fritz Von Erich . . . Von Erich spoke with Duggan about a professional wrestling career, but Duggan was unreceptive . . . Von Erich told him that if his football career didn't succeed, to keep him and the sport of wrestling in mind . . . Went on to attend SMU and amass an impressive record on the gridiron . . . After college, Duggan played pro football for the Atlanta Falcons during the 1977 and 1978 seasons . . . Between those two seasons he was looking for something to keep him in condition . . . Gave Fritz Von Erich a call, hoping to learn some wrestling as a way of staying in shape . . . Von Erich placed Duggan on a strict training program for several months . . . Made his professional wrestling debut in September 1977 in Dallas against Bill White . . . Wrestled for a few weeks in the Dallas area . . . Only had that brief taste of the pro ranks as he had to return to Atlanta and prepare for the Falcons' '78 season . . . Was released by the Falcons after the '78 season . . . Signed Signed by the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League in 1979 . . . After the '79 season, returned home to Glens Falls . . . Local promoter Ted Bailey heard that Duggan had wrestled in Texas and booked him on some local WWF cards . . . Duggan met Peter Maivia at one of these Glens Falls-area cards . . . Maivia liked the way Duggan wrestled, and got him booked to compete in Hawaii . . . Duggan remained in Hawaii for six months . . . Returned to the New York area and competed in the WWF for a short time . . . Atlanta promoters took notice of Duggan's talents and quickly signed him . . . Duggan credits Atlanta as being the place where he "really learned how to wrestle" . . . Remained in the Atlanta area for about a year . . . After wrestling in Atlanta, made his first overseas tour, traveling to Japan for five weeks . . . Early 1982 saw Duggan wrestling in both the Southwest and Atlanta areas . . . It was in mid-1982 that Duggan made his first appearance in the Mid-South area . . . Quickly befriended by Ted DiBiase and Matt Borne . . . The combination of DiBiase, Borne, and Duggan became known as "The Rat Pack" . . . Calling himself "The Big Cheese," DiBiase proclaimed himself the leader of the trio . . . As a member of The Rat Pack, Duggan feuded with all the area fan favorites including Junkyard Dog, Tony Atlas, Chavo Guerrero, and Mr. Wrestling II . . . The team of DiBiase and Duggan became one of the most feared combinations in all of wrestling . . . When DiBiase took on Gen. Skandor Akbar as his adviser in May 1983, Duggan was publicly vocal about his displeasure with his partner . . . Duggan felt that The Rat Pack should never have become involved with the anti-American Gen. Akbar . . . Duggan began a one-man campaign against Akbar's stable, including The Black Ninja and Kamala . . . Meanwhile, a violent Duggan-DiBiase feud began to dominate the Mid-South scene . . . The two men met in a series of bloody one-on-one matches . . . Duggan defeated DiBiase in a loser-leave-town cage match, and DiBiase had to leave the Mid-South area for 90 days . . . Duggan's war with Akbar also escalated . . . As a result of Duggan's dual-front war, he became one of the most popular individuals in Mid-South wrestling history . . . When Akbar brought The Missing Link into the Mid-South area, Duggan enlisted the aid of Andre the Giant to help battle the wild team . . . Duggan challenged then-North American champion Butch Reed several times for the title . . . Feuded with Jim "The Anvil" Neidhardt . . . "Walked tall for America" in feuds with Nikolai Volkoff and Krusher Darsow (who, during the course of the feud, would change his name to Krusher Khrushchev) during late 1983 and early 1984 . . . Teamed with Terry Taylor . . . Feuded with Hercules Hernandez in a series of coal miner's glove matches thoughout the Mid-South area . . . Joined forces with Magnum T.A. to battle the combination of Hernandez and "Dr. Death" Steve Williams . . . Despite his success on the Mid-South scene, Duggan remarkably has never succeeded in capturing the North American heavyweight title . . . He has, however, had several title shots with NWA World champion Ric Flair . . . Duggan blames his lack of title success on his own hot-headedness . . . 1985 saw Duggan's feud with DiBiase reach new heights of violence and bitterness . . . Also has been feuding with The Barbarian and Kamala . . . Akbar threw a fireball at Duggan, which has intensified this feud even further . . . A Mid-South dream tag team was formed when Duggan joined up with Cowboy Bill Watts to battle Gen. Skandor Akbar's team of Kamala and Kareem Muhammad . . . Having spent most of his career handling several feuds at once, Duggan might do well to focus his energies in one direction . . . If he could do so, 1986 might be the year Duggan captures the North American title . . . With a belt or without a belt, Duggan will remain a champion in the hearts of Mid-South fans for a long time to come. □

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

JIM DUGGAN

The Hacksaw



Pro Wrestling Illustrated

CLOSE-UP

TOUGHEST OPPONENT

Dusty Rhodes. In January 1984, Duggan made a brief tour of the Florida area and found himself signed to wrestle "The American Dream" Dusty Rhodes. Duggan has gone on record as saying that Dusty "is easily the most formidable opponent I've ever faced in that ring in all my years as a pro."

MOST HATED OPPONENT

Krusher Khrushchev. Duggan's breakup with Ted DiBiase was a direct result of his love of America and his deep-rooted patriotism. When an American-born wrestler by the name of Krusher Darsow embraced Russian ways and changed his name to Krusher Khrushchev, Duggan was outraged to the very depths of his soul. Theirs was one of the most brutal feuds in Mid-South history.

GREATEST MATCH

June 1, 1985, vs. Kamala. On May 4, 1984, Hacksaw Duggan was the victim of a fireball thrown by Kamala's manager, Gen. Skandor Akbar. Nearly blinded, Duggan was out of action for several weeks, during which time his hatred for Kamala and Akbar grew. When Duggan finally returned to the ring—against doctors' orders—and battled Kamala in New Orleans, it was a taste of sweet revenge for which he had long been hungering.

FAVORITE MANEUVER

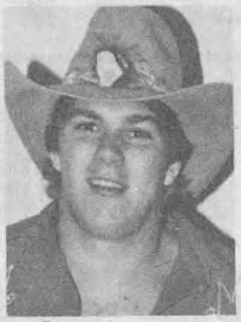
Over-the-knee backbreaker. Duggan is an extremely strong man, and there are few competitors who can withstand an extended power attack by the Hacksaw. When Duggan lifts his opponent in the air and deposits his back full-force over his outstretched knee, it is likely that the opponent will become a pinfall victim three seconds later.

ACHIEVEMENT '85

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

The Barbarian

Ricky Vaughan vs. Karl Steiner



Sam Houston

The man you select as your choice for Rookie of the Year must have begun his full-time career since our previous year-end poll was held. There are two considerations you should definitely think about as you cast your vote: (1) What kind of success did the wrestler have during the past year, and (2) What is this wrestler's potential for future success? Past winners of Rookie of the Year honors have included Mike Graham, Larry Zbyszko, Ric Flair, Rick Steamboat, and Terry Taylor. A vote for a Rookie of the Year is most assuredly a vote for a superstar of the future.

Top candidates for 1985: The Barbarian, Mike Golden, Big John Harris, Sam Houston, Cpl. Kirschner, The Snowman, Starship Eagle, Edcar Thomas, Ricky Vaughan, Kendell Windham

1984 winner: Mike Von Erich

MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

Rick Martel

Magnum T.A.

Hulk Hogan

This may be the most straightforward category of all: Who did you cheer for the most in 1985? That's the man you should vote for. Every wrestler is popular to one degree or another, but we're looking for the one man who has received more cheers and accolades than anyone else in the sport. This is a very special award, because the man who wins it is an unquestioned success in the hearts and minds of fans everywhere, regardless of his success in the ring, the record book, or in gaining championship titles.

Top candidates for 1985: Hacksaw Duggan, Hulk Hogan, Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Rick Martel, Dusty Rhodes, Sgt. Slaughter, Terry Taylor, Kerry Von Erich, Kevin Von Erich

1984 winner: Kerry Von Erich

MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

Brutus Beefcake

Steve Williams

Nikita Koloff vs. Steve Keirn

This may be the one award that most exemplifies the spirit of the term "Achievement '85," because the wrestler who wins this award has truly achieved a great deal in the past year. Your vote in this category should go to the one individual who has made marked improvements in the past 12 months. Think of the men who began the year in relative obscurity and used their skills to reach a pinnacle of success. Think of the men who have captured the first major title of their careers. Think of the men who have been tireless in their effort to improve their skills and abilities. These are worthy candidates for this award. It doesn't matter whether the recipient of this award is a rulebreaker or scientific wrestler, but his improvement should have been consistent throughout the year.

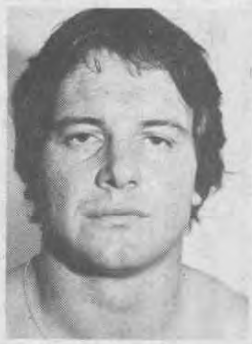
Top candidates for 1985: Brian Adidas, The Barbarian, Brutus Beefcake, Tully Blanchard, Nikita Koloff, Magnum T.A., Rick Rude, Randy Savage, Terry Taylor, Steve Williams

1984 winner: Billy Jack Haynes

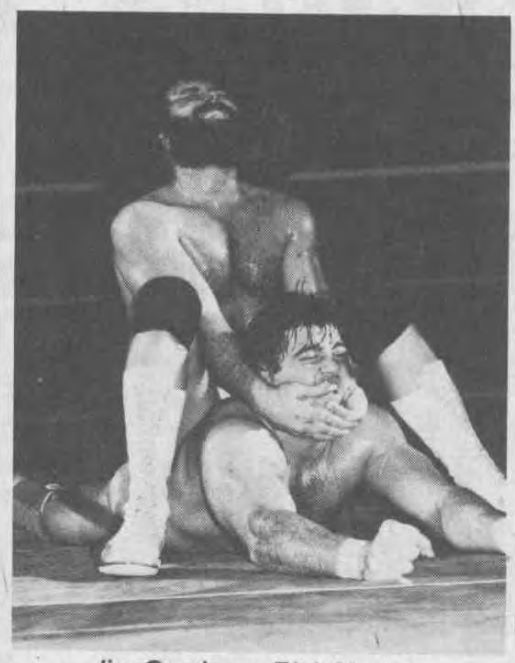
MOST HATED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

You know the type: They have no regard for the rulebook, no sense of fair play, and a complete lack of respect for the fans. They tend to do anything in their power to cripple and maim an opponent. They are the most hated men in professional wrestling. Certainly you can come up with a

Chris Adams



Roddy Piper



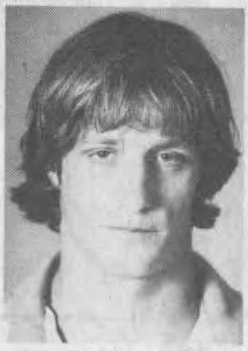
Jim Garvin vs. Rick Martel

good half dozen names of wrestlers that you truly despised in 1985, but who is the one individual you hated the most? That's the man you should be voting for in this category.

Top candidates for 1985: Chris Adams, Tully Blanchard, Ted DiBiase, Jim Garvin, Kamala, Nikita Koloff, Roddy Piper, Rick Rude, John Studd, Greg Valentine

1984 winner: Roddy Piper

INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR



Kevin Von Erich

Sgt. Slaughter vs. Ric Flair

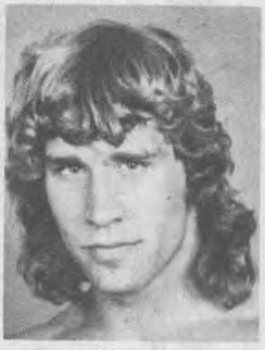
Tito Santana

In many respects, this is the most difficult category in which to cast a vote, because you must examine abstract achievements rather than simply look at the number of titles an individual has captured. We want to know who you feel is the one individual that stands out as an example of courage and strength. Who is the one individual that succeeded in overcoming considerable roadblocks and obstacles in his career? Who is the one individual that has turned failure into success? Who is the one individual that makes you feel truly proud and honored to be a fan of professional wrestling? This is the individual you should vote for.

Top candidates for 1985: Hacksaw Duggan, Ric Flair, Hulk Hogan, Paul Orndorff, Dusty Rhodes, Wendi Richter, Tito Santana, Sgt. Slaughter, Kevin Von Erich, Steve Williams

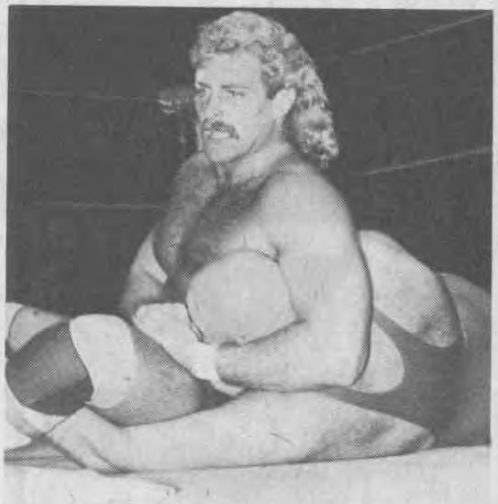
1984 winner: Sgt. Slaughter

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR



Kerry Von Erich

Ric Flair



Magnum T.A. vs. Nikita Koloff

For many fans and professionals alike, this is the top award of all. Three prerequisites must be fulfilled: talent, skill, and achievement. The Wrestler of the Year is a man who is a well-rounded athlete, who commands respect from all corners of the wrestling world. The Wrestler of the Year should be the one individual in the sport who, more than anyone else, embodies the true spirit of professional wrestling. Your vote should go to the one individual who during 1985 has contributed something of lasting worth to the sport's history, an individual who represents wrestling excellence in all its many facets.

Top candidates for 1985: Chris Adams, Tully Blanchard, Hacksaw Duggan, Ric Flair, Hulk Hogan, Magnum T.A., Rick Martel, Tito Santana, Kerry Von Erich, Kevin Von Erich

1984 winner: Ric Flair

(Continued on page 66)

VOLUME VI, No. 10 October 1985

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ WRESTLING ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
ENQUIRER

WRESTLING WORLD IN SHOCK

Heart Attack Fells Jay Youngblood; Mike Von Erich In Serious Condition

JAY YOUNGBLOOD

In the space of three days, freak illnesses were responsible for the death of Indian star Jay Youngblood, 30, in Australia, and, on the other side of the world, the hospitalization of 21-year-old Mike Von Erich, who, as of press time remained in serious condition in a hospital in Dallas.

Youngblood, a former co-holder of the NWA World tag team title with Rick Steamboat, died September 1 after suffering a series of heart attacks while on a South Pacific tour with his brother, Mark.

Youngblood was treated for a pancreatic disorder shortly before he and his brother embarked on the Australian tour, but felt good enough to travel. He collapsed following a match and was rushed to a local hospital, where he suffered three coronary infarctions and was pronounced dead.

Von Erich was hospitalized on August 30, suffering from fevers reaching as high as 107 degrees. His condition was diagnosed as toxic shock syndrome, a bacterial infection usually associated with women's use of tampons.

Dr. William Sutker, a physician at the Baylor University Medical Center where Von Erich is hospitalized, said the athlete's physical training was "the only reason he's still alive." But he added that "the prognosis was not good. He almost died the first night he came here."

A spokesman for the Medical Center said that TSS is "an extremely rare surgical complication." Von Erich apparently contracted the disease following recent surgery on his shoulder, which he dislocated during a World Class tour of Israel on August 22.

MIKE VON ERICH

Shultz Negotiating With AWA

"Dr. D" David Shultz is negotiating for his return to the AWA.

By BILL APTER

MINNEAPOLIS—"Dr. D" David Shultz is negotiating to return to the AWA after an absence of almost two years. According to informed sources, Shultz is close to signing for a series of title matches against AWA World champion Rick Martel.

Attorneys for Shultz and Martel have been locked in contract negotiations for weeks and, according to Shultz, expect to ink a pact any moment. "I can beat that Canadian wimp real easy," Shultz told the *Wrestling Enquirer*. "But I've got to give him credit. At least he'll put his belt on the line against me, unlike that chicken-spit coward Hulk Hogan. That so-called champion is protected by so many men in business suits that it's impossible to corner him into a match. Besides, I no longer have to prove to the world that he's a scared rabbit. Everyone knows that by now.

"Ric Flair gave me a match and it was a great one, but he always gets himself disqualified," Shultz continued. "If I'm gonna get myself a world title, it looks like it's gonna have to be poor little Rick Martel who I'm gonna take it from."

Martel Apologizes To Fans

By JIM SCHUERMANN

TAMPA—AWA champion Rick Martel disappointed thousands of fans over the Labor Day weekend when he failed to appear for the long anticipated Sundome show in Tampa, Florida. Because of some severe weather problems, Martel missed plane connections en route to Florida and spent the holiday weekend back home in Canada.

Martel was scheduled to face Nick Bockwinkel in one of the card's main events. His place was taken by Frankie Lane who was dispatched by the veteran Bockwinkel before the ex-AWA champ could work up a sweat.

Afterward, Bockwinkel berated the missing Martel. "This is the fifth time that that Canadian water rat has backed out of his matches and I'm getting sick and tired of it. It's always something with Martel."

"There is nothing you can do about the weather," Martel said when told of Bockwinkel's comment. "I try my best and if certain over-the-hill wrestlers don't like it, it's not my problem. A man of Bockwinkel's age should not get too excited. He's liable to drop at any moment."

Midnight Rider Appears In Mid-South

By CRAIG PETERS

TULSA—The Mid-South area has been visited recently by a mysterious masked vigilante calling himself "The Midnight Rider." The Rider's origins have been shrouded in mystery, although the guess of many is that he is Bill Watts.

Contributing to many of these suspicions is the Rider's disposition to attack Gen. Skandor Akbar and his army at any time. Whenever Butch Reed, Dick Murdoch, and other Mid-South fan favorites find themselves at the mercy of Kamala, Kareem Muhammed, and Akbar, The Midnight Rider has consistently raced into the ring and rescued them.

Akbar is incensed at this turn of events and has threatened to take legal action. "This is just ridiculous," the manager said. "My only recourse is to appeal to the Mid-South office but that fathead Watts and his whipping boy flunky son control the office. Everyone knows that it's Watts behind the mask. I was considering taking the whole caboodle of thieves to court, but I realized that this is their town and they probably have every politician and judge within a three-state radius in their pockets.

"What they didn't count on is my wrath. Kamala and Kareem do not like it when I get angry. They get angry, too. I feel sorry for Bill Watts. I hope he has a big insurance policy."

AROUND THE GLOBE

TOKYO, JAPAN

New Japan Pro Wrestling Vice President Seiji Sakaguchi has announced that New Japan officials met with World Class officials in Texas recently, and have reached an agreement for Kerry and Kevin Von Erich to tour Japan in late October. New Japan will also bring Bruiser Brody from World Class to Japan, and Japanese officials are negotiating to team Brody with "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka.

STAMFORD, CT

A consortium of businessmen have formed a brand-new wrestling organization, the Trans-World Wrestling Federation. The TWWF will present cards on the East Coast, and wrestlers already signed to compete for the new federation include Bob Backlund, The Samoans, The Tonga Kid, Bobby Duncum, Abdullah The Butcher, and Masked Superstar.

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

Masked Mexican sensation Mil Mascaras, who has already signed several open contracts with AWA promoters, has negotiating with AWA officials for a match against AWA World heavyweight champion Rick Martel. Last year, Mascaras competed in the WWF for a brief period, but reportedly left after negotiations for a title match with WWF World champion Hulk Hogan fell through.

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KINGS COURT

(Continued from page 10)

Recently, Andre wrestled King Kong Bundy in Madison Square Garden in a match entitled "The Colossal Jostle." Before he came to the WWF, Bundy was a washout in the Georgia area (where he was savaged by The Road Warriors) and the AWA (where he was so unsuccessful, he changed his name to "Boom Boom" Bundy.) A few years ago, someone like Bundy would have been too insignificant to attract Andre's attention. But this is 1985, and, perhaps Andre has degenerated to a point where promoters considered this a competitive matchup.

With the untimely death of Jay Youngblood, who died of a heart attack, it's time for wrestling—and the state commissions—to take a close look at the men who are in the ring. Boxers must pass rigid medical tests or face losing their licenses. There is no excuse for the New York State Athletic Commission to allow Andre—not to mention the *70-year-old* Fred Blassie—to be inside a wrestling ring. It's time for wrestling to mandate some sort of minimum health standards. Now.

In the shape he is currently in, Andre the Giant should not be allowed to participate in a sport that is so physically demanding. And don't point to his undefeated record as a reason he should be allowed to wrestle. There is a potential for tragedy with Andre the Giant. Wrestling is a great sport, but it's not worth dying for.

At one time, Andre the Giant was the king of wrestling. But to see him today reminds me of an empire crumbling.

***

This month, the *PWI* family gets a little bigger. We welcome Jim Schuermann to our ranks.

More than 1,000 people applied for the position that finally went to Jim. Some of these applicants were among the most famous writers and reporters in publishing. But as soon as we saw a sample of Jim's writing, we knew he was the one who would earn a spot on the *PWI* roster. We expect Jim to do for us what Dwight Gooden, another young all-star, did for the New York Mets.

Welcome aboard, Jimbo!

***

This is a very special issue of *PWI*. The fan ballot that we ask you to fill in on page 67 will help decide the most prestigious awards in wrestling. But there are two categories that are not included in the main voting section that I am very interested in getting some fan response to. With the incredible number of wrestling TV shows on the air, I am wondering which shows and which announcers fans find most pleasing. If you wish to participate in this "Special Election," please fill out the ballot below. (You can include this ballot in the same envelope in which you send in the main ballot on page 67.) Thank you. □

☐ My Favorite Wrestling TV Show Is:

_____

☐ My Favorite Wrestling Announcer Is:

_____

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BRUISER BRODY

(Continued from page 29)

To Bruiser Brody, Hart's accusations are just so much chin music. "Hart's doing okay for himself, y'know," said Brody. "He's lost Chris Adams, he's lost Kabuki, and he's lost me. And look who he's got left. Mark Lewin. You know what Mark Lewin does after his matches? He stands by tollbooths with a squeegie and washes windshields for 50 cents a pop.

"And his other two saps, One Man Gang and Killer Tim Brooks, are so pathetic they hardly deserve a second thought. What is a One Man Gang? How many dates do you think he goes on? I know this woman who used to date Jerry Lawler who is so ugly that her dog would burst into tears every time she'd come home. *She* wouldn't go near One Man Gang. And Killer Brooks, please, how much can one man laugh? That guy is so old and washed-up, jeez, I mean the guy wears dentures.

"The bottom line is that no matter who I go up against, the results are always the same. No one can match me for pure muscle and mayhem. No one can keep up with my style, no one in the world."

Brody denies that it was his kinetic style that resulted in the breakup between Hart and himself. "Hart spits out so much garbage they should make him join the sanitation union," Brody cried. "I'm in this sport for one reason and its color is green. Hart is a miserly, cheating fool and he kept skimming money from my paychecks. He wasn't used to managing someone who could add two plus two. With One Man Gang, he orders him an extra appetizer in Chinatown and the fat man is in pig heaven. With me I want money. That's why I kick so much butt."

But whether Brody's hairy palms are being skinned with Von Erich dough is still in doubt. The Von Erich camp refused to comment about the money situation, Fritz Von Erich saying only that "Bruiser Brody and I go way back. I trained him many years ago and now he's repaying that debt."

One Man Gang drives his huge boot into Brody's jaw. As good as Brody is, he would be making a huge mistake in underestimating Gary Hart's dangerous stable.

When Fritz's quote made its way back to Gary Hart, his entire head wrinkled with laughter. "Bruiser Brody repaying a debt? Am I hearing that right or did someone spike my coffee with Liquid Plumber? Not for nothing does Brody do things. The man has no conscience. He has no morals. His mother once asked him to come visit her on her 75th birthday and he agreed to it only after she met his appearance fee.

"He's repaying a debt to Fritz Von Erich. Does he forget that it was not too long ago that he came within an inch of ending Fritz Von Erich's life when he was working for me? He's here working for the Von Erichs because they are paying him a lot of money. And if tomorrow I offered him more money he would come work for me and try to stuff Kerry Von Erich into a Cuisinart without one pang of guilt.

"That is how Bruiser Brody operates. His only loyalty is to the almighty dollar. It's just a matter of time before a better offer is cast before his eyes and he'll jump on it and forget all about his debt to the Von Erichs. The Von Erichs are in for a rude awakening, because just as Brody dumps them will be the time I instruct my men to attack. I anticipate that Kevin and Kerry Von Erich will be through as a wrestling force within the next three months."

Although Hart's forecasts of doom read slightly melodramatic, his depiction of Bruiser Brody as an unconscionable mercenary bent on destruction for its own sake are consistent with Brody's career history. Brody's latest episode of schizophrenia occurred two months ago in Memphis, when he attacked his tag team partner, Jerry Lawler, after a match—a match that they had won.

The dividends of a prolonged friendship with Bruier Brody are risky at best, yet the Von Erichs seem secure with the relationship thus far. Kerry and Kevin anticipate teaming with Brody in the very near future against Hart's team of OMG, Lewin, and Brooks. When pressed to comment, Kevin might have revealed the Von Erichs' true feelings about Brody. "We knew this fella by the name of Chris Adams some time ago," the sleepy-eyed favorite said, "and we all learned a lesson by that association. It's an honor to wrestle alongside someone like Bruiser Brody, but bank on the fact that the Von Erichs will not be caught off-guard again." □

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DRESSING ROOM

(Continued from page 12)

who assume that all fans are unknowledgeable. These promoters ignore—and thus show their disrespect for—a group of wrestling fans that they probably have no idea is so large. Did somebody mention Vince McMahon?

Poor Vince. He always seems to be taking the heat. It could be because he deserves it.

I'll admit that McMahon has assembled a formidable group of wrestlers in the WWF. I'll also admit that he's opened a lot of people's eyes to this great sport who had previously known little if anything about it. If you don't tell anybody, I'll also admit that I sometimes have fun watching *Wrestling TNT*—when it doesn't get too out of hand. But there is one thing I'll never tolerate, and that is having a lack of respect for the true fans of the sport.

I've been giving a lot of thought to the Lanny Poffo-Randy Savage situation lately. As the most widely-read wrestling magazine in the world, how do we handle their current status in the WWF? Do we run a big story revealing how they are in fact brothers, a fact that is ignored in the WWF? The editors of this magazine have decided against running such a story. To a true wrestling fan, the fact that Poffo and Savage are brothers is hardly newsworthy. And since *PWI* is read by true wrestling fans, how informative would such a story be?

(What I'd like to do is jump into ring at Madison Square Garden, grab the microphone, and knock those "arena fans" out of their seats with the news. But let's be realistic.)

The real story here is the way the WWF treats its fans. I find it difficult to believe that the TV announcers don't know that Poffo and Savage are brothers, or that

The Missing Link didn't just crawl out from under a rock, or that Terry Funk was once heavyweight champion of the oldest and largest wrestling alliance in the world. Would the fans think any less of these wrestlers if they knew they had a history? Did the Houston Oilers try to hide the fact that Mike Rozier played in the USFL before this year? Of course not.

Savage and Poffo have had an up-and-down relationship for years. That one could be a scientific wrestler and the other a rule-breaker is not so unusual. Every few years or so, it seems that these two drift apart. But while they drift philosophically, they rarely ever drift physically. Their sibling rivalry always seems to keep them close by one another.

Many of you probably read the Spring 1985 edition of *Wrestling 85* in which our sister publication featured the story of when Savage and Poffo squared off in an empty arena to determine once and for all who was the better man inside the ring. While the match did not conclusively prove the superiority of either wrestler, it did prove that these two brothers, despite the love they have for one another, are capable of going at each other with the intensity of any two feuding wrestlers.

Noting the excitement that the one article in *Wrestling 85* generated, perhaps Vince McMahon is anticipating an eventual showdown between the two brothers—before a live (ticket-buying) audience. Perhaps he feels that the wrestling fans would be turned off by a ring rivalry between brothers, which would explain why he wouldn't want that fact known. Here again, McMahon makes the mistake of assuming that he is the only one who knows that Savage and Poffo are brothers. When he assumes that he knows more about wrestling than *all* wrestling fans, he is making a serious mistake. □

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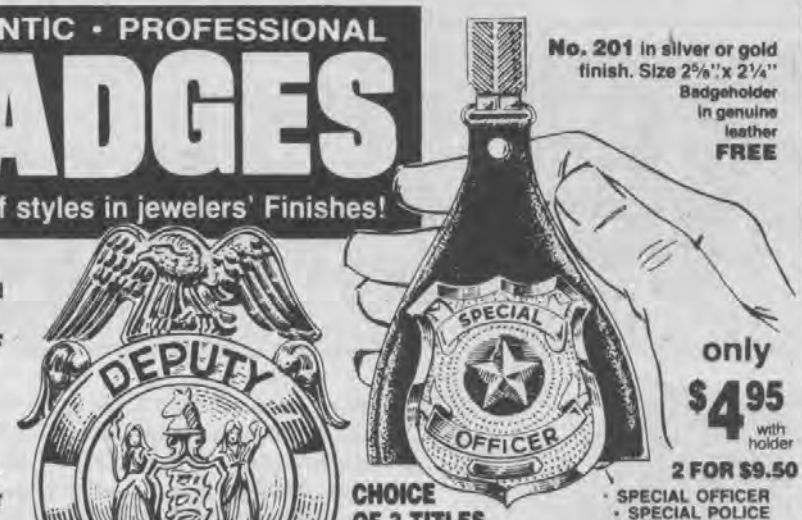

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MAGNUM T.A.

(Continued from page 27)

wrestling, the U.S. championship, but his initial anger about its loss had subsided. In fact, Magnum was ambivalent about Tully Blanchard's capture of his title. Like most NWA wrestlers, Magnum's lesser ambitions are shadowed by one all-encompassing objective. That objective weighs about 10 pounds, more or less, and it's worth its weight in blood and doctors' bills. Tully didn't have *the* belt.

Magnum had completely forgotten about the stoplight fans by the next intersection. He could barely keep his mind on the blacktop and its parallel lines. His tired eyes grew heavy at the lids and he was mighty glad he wasn't driving a car with a stick shift and a clutch; the effort of reversing a figure-four leglock had rendered his legs temporarily powerless. Blinking, he caught a glimpse of blond locks in his rear-view mirror.

"Tough match tonight, Terry," he heard a distant, nasal voice coming from the general vicinity of the back seat. "You know, I've underestimated you for a long time. I thought you were another no-talent pretty boy with a big fan following who the promoters forced upon me to sell tickets. At first it worked out that way, but now I'm fighting for my life when I'm in the ring with you. You learn fast, kid, I'm gonna have to be . . ."

Magnum lurched alert and squeezed the wheel with a dead man's grip. He had fallen alseep at the wheel for what was in actuality fewer than two seconds, and he had been listening to the Ric Flair of his dreams. Sudden clarity washed over him like an ice-cold shower. He realized he would have to stop for rest before he could continue on to the next day's arena, the next day's grueling match.

Plopping down on the motel bed with his boots on, the exhausted T.A. laid his head on the pillows and let his thoughts swim. *Ah, horizontal is heaven,* he thought. Idly he kicked off one boot by wedging the heel against the bedpost. It fell with an alarming thud,

Despite his weakened condition, T.A. is able to get off his belly-to-belly suplex against Flair. Later that night, T.A. would realize just how successful he was in this match.

and Magnum started up again. Removing the other boot, he strolled to the TV and flicked the switch. A late-night news program drifted onto the tube. Something about police vans burning in South Africa. More battles, more lethal struggles the world over. Magnum turned the brightness all the way down to blacken the screen, but kept the sound on without listening to the words. He knew the story, but he liked the soothing elegance of the correspondent's British accent.

Struggles. They were fighting for something over there. Magnum had been in enough feuds—some heartbreaking, some triumphant—to know well the nature of fighting the good fight. The trick was to learn from your mistakes, from other people's delusions, from tragedies—and remember yourself. Remember your own power to learn.

"I've learned more about myself in the past year than ever before." To his amazement, Magnum realized he was talking to himself. *The fatigue's driving me bonkers,* he thought, and reached into his knapsack for three items: a canister of ginseng tea, a water boiler, and a manila folder filled with scouting reports about Ric Flair.

The water slowly fizzled and coughed. One crisis kept being replaced by yet another crisis on the news. Magnum squinted at the notes he had made that night in the dressing room, after his match with Flair. "Figr-4 rvrsd 48 secs . . . fastest yet . . . blckd Vsplx [vertical suplex] attmpt w/tripout . . . must find way t/ dfnse DU [double-underhook suplex] . . ."

Magnum read on, having no difficulty with his own half-legible scrawl. He liked what he saw. The voluminous notes he had taken of all his matches with Flair indicated his inexorable progress. He kept coming closer and closer to the 10 pounds of gold with every match. It was only a matter of time before the referee would slap the canvas one, two, three; soon he would be the master of Flair's idiosyncrasies. The champion was no longer a mystery; T.A. knew how to beat him.

Lights on, TV purring, Magnum fell asleep with all of his clothes on and a smile of victory on his lips. □

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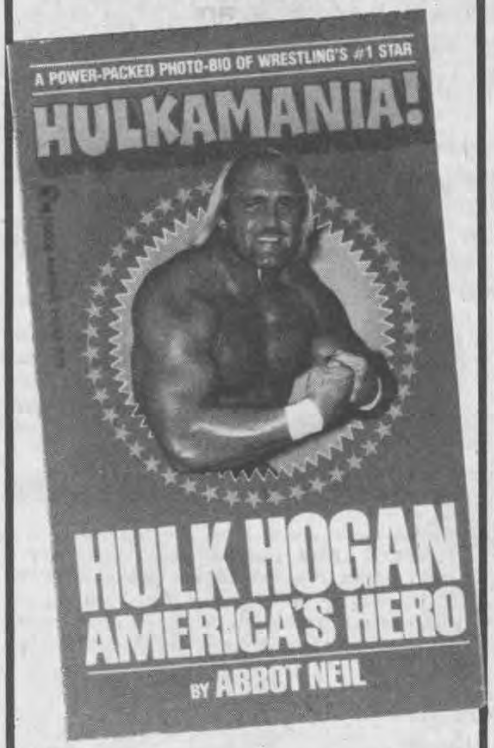

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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 18)

utterly perfect in body and comely in face that I can stare at them for but seconds at a time.

They lift me up into the elevator where, like the young maiden in every Harlequin romance, I faint dead away. I'm revived by the aromatic bouquet of a just corked bottle of '51 Chateau Lefait, a glass of which purchased in a fine restaurant would cover my entire paycheck. The gentleman pouring the wine, his hand gently manicured, the skin taut over the smooth, muscled curve of his fingers, is Ricky Steamboat.

The rest of the day and night of course happens too fast to comprehend. The limo races to the airport. The Concorde has us in Paris in less than five hours. Dinner at the foot of the Eiffel Tower. Another limousine. A midnight gondola ride in the lush canal waters of Venice. The world's finest food, her most vintage wines, conducted by the man many women value as the world's sexiest.

The key to this fantasy is time. At 3 a.m., Rick and I are back on the Concorde, staring through each other's eyes, the tips of our fingers—because this is a G-rated fantasy—providing all the contact necessary. By 9 a.m., the limousine, which I have come to regard as my own, and its twin towers of Hunk, have deposited me back in my office. In less than a day I've gone around the world with Rick Steamboat, 24 hours of exclusivity I wouldn't have traded for a winnng Lotto ticket.

So, what are you saying? It's not illegal to dream, is it? Besides Ricky Steamboat has more potential than anyone in the world of professional wrestling, and I've been meaning to do a column on him anyway. Why not mix business with pleasure and fantasy?

What we remember is a curious, unpredictable, and often frustrating process. While I can't remember where I dropped off my dry cleaning, one of my sharpest memories is of Jay Youngblood and Rick Steamboat winning the NWA tag team belts in a bloody melee from the Brisco brothers in Greenville, South Carolina. That match is barely two years old and look what has happened to the four participants.

The Briscos have retired from the ring and now run an auto body shop down in Florida. Jay Youngblood died last month in Australia, leaving Steamboat as the only man in that Greenville ring still involved in the sport, and him you'd hardly recognize.

Known by the new calling card of "The Dragon," Steamboat's career has become heavily influenced by the martial arts, bringing to mind another Mid-Atlantic grappler by the name of Superstar Billy Graham. The difference between the two is whereas Graham has gone karate krazy, Steamboat uses the eastern discipline to balance a multi-dimensional attack.

I think this new streamlined version of Ricky Steamboat is capable of capturing any title he sets his piercing brown eyes upon. But first he must catch the first rickshaw the hell out of WWF land, unless he wishes to become hopelessly mired in wrestling politics.

That would be a tragedy. Rick Steamboat does not want to waste these precious years battling a ring weary Don Muraco for the bragging rights of the South Pacific. He wants a world title and the only thing stopping him is the WWF's unyielding policy of restricting Hulk Hogan's title defenses to rulebreakers. I suggest he move back to the Carolinas, or think about the AWA.

A great mind and body is a terrible thing to waste. □

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December 1981/Cover story: Muraco-Morales. PLUS: Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Cover stories: Valentine, Brisco-Funk. PLUS: Steele, Flair, Hayes.

April 1982/Cover stories: Spoiler, Idol-Hayes. PLUS: Morales, Super D, Ladd.

May 1982/Cover story: Rich-Flair. PLUS: Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Cover stories: Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka. PLUS: Wrestlers rate each other.

July 1982/Cover stories: Steamboat-Idol, Albano. PLUS: Rhodes, Patera.

August 1982/Cover stories: Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater. PLUS: Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.

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June 1983/Cover stories: Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson. PLUS: Brody, Sullivan.

NOVEMBER 1983

July 1983/Cover story: Valiant-Humperdink. PLUS: Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.

October 1983/Cover stories: Martel-Valentine, Mulligan. PLUS: Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

November 1983/Cover stories: Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody. PLUS: Slater, Wrestling II, Backlund.

December 1983/Cover story: Windham-LeDuc. PLUS: Santana, Sullivan, Garvin, masked wrestlers.

January 1984/Cover stories: Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel. PLUS: Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.

February 1984/Cover stories: Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen. PLUS: Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Cover story: Starrcade '83 featuring Flair, Steamboat & Youngblood, Piper-Valentine. PLUS: Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Cover stories: Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki. PLUS: Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/Cover stories: LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins. PLUS: The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Cover stories: Windham-Flair, Gilbert. PLUS: Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Cover stories: Flair-Gordy. PLUS: Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA Tag team tournament.

August 1984/Cover stories: Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes. PLUS: Zbyszko, Von Erich, The Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Cover stories: Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

October 1984/Cover stories: Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video. PLUS: Atlas, Spoiler, historic Orange Bowl card.

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January 1985/Cover stories: Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund. PLUS: Fabulous Ones, *Pro Wrestling USA*.

February 1985/Cover stories: Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts. PLUS: Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Cover story: Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs. PLUS: 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Cover stories: Von Erich-Blackwell, Billy Haynes-Jesse Barr. PLUS: Hart, Irwins, 1985 in Pictures.

May 1985/Cover stories: Albano, Freebirds-Flair. PLUS: Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas closeup.

June 1985/Cover story: Pro Wrestling U.S.A. PLUS: Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Cover stories: Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches. PLUS: Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Cover stories: Flair vs. Nikita. PLUS: Orndorff, Slaughter, Haynes, Parade of Champions II.

SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING

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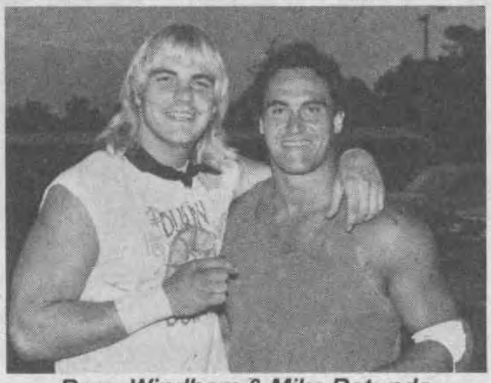
ACHIEVEMENT '85 (Continued from page 41)

TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR

The Road Warriors

Rick Morton & Robert Gibson



Barry Windham & Mike Rotundo

The tag team wrestling scene has been improving enormously over the past few years, and it keeps on getting better. The team you vote for as Tag Team of the Year should be the combination you feel enjoyed the most success during 1985. It doesn't matter whether the tag team is a rulebreaking or scientific combination, but skill, quality of opposition, and success during 1985 should be your main considerations when casting your vote. It should be noted that teams competing regularly in six-man competition (such as The Freebirds and The Von Erichs) are also eligible for this award.

Top candidates for 1985: Chris Adams & Gino Hernandez, Ole & Arn Anderson, Ted DiBiase & Steve Williams, Dynamite Kid & Davey Boy Smith, The Fantastics, Ivan & Nikita Koloff & Krusher Khrushchev, The Midnight Express, The Road Warriors, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, Barry Windham & Mike Rotundo

1984 winner: The Road Warriors

MATCH OF THE YEAR

Mr. T & Hulk Hogan defeat Roddy Piper & Paul Orndorff

Bob Backlund vs. Rick Martel

The Match of the Year should be a contest characterized by excitement, skill, and historic significance, though these are not essential criteria for casting your vote. There is one important restriction, however: The match must have taken place in front of at least 5,000 fans in order to qualify. When voting, think of the one match that stands out most prominently in your mind, the one match that fans will look back on and remember as truly representing the sport this year.

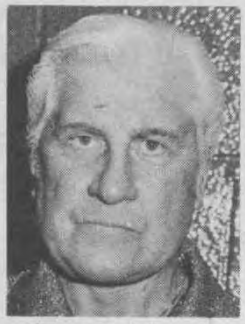
Top candidates for 1985: February 22: Rick Martel vs. Bob Backlund; February 24: Sgt. Slaughter wins tag team battle royal (East Rutherford, NJ); March 31: Hulk Hogan & Mr. T vs. Roddy Piper & Bob Orton (WrestleMania main event); April 18: Road Warriors vs. Ivan & Nikita Koloff (first match between these teams); July 6: Tito Santana vs. Greg Valentine (Santana regains WWF Intercontinental title); July 6: Ric Flair vs. Nikita Koloff (Great American Bash main event)

1984 winner: Kerry Von Erich vs. Ric Flair (Von Erich captures NWA World title in Texas Stadium)

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

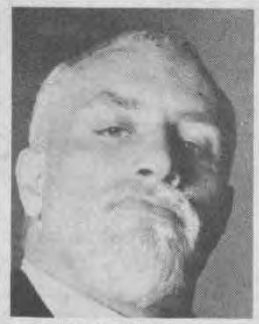
Skandor Akbar

Lou Albano


Freddie Blassie

Jim Cornette

J.J. Dillon


Paul Ellering

Managers fulfill several functions in the sport of wrestling. They maintain financial portfolios for their wrestlers, they handle match contracts on a daily basis, they offer important advice during training sessions, and they provide guidance from ringside during important matches. Strategist, psychologist, public relations man, business manager, cheerleader, personal advisor—a manager is that rare combination of all these things, and many more. Your vote for Manager of the Year should go to the one individual who has not only enjoyed the most success with his or her wrestler or wrestlers throughout 1985, but (and this may be more important than title success) who has also made the strongest impression on the professional wrestling scene this year.

Top candidates for 1985: Gen. Skandor Akbar, Lou Albano, Fred Blassie, Jim Cornette, J.J. Dillon, Paul Ellering, Gary Hart, Jimmy Hart, Paul Jones, Percy Pringle

1984 winner: Paul Ellering

YOUR UNOFFICIAL OFFICIAL AWARD

This category asks you to be creative. What we want you to do is come up with your own awards category, then name the recipient. In the March 1985 edition of *PWI*, for example, Peter King's "King's Court" column named dozens of "awards" for 1984: Best Hair Style (Jesse Ventura) . . . Time To Get Back In The Gym Trophy (The Samoans) . . . Match We'd Like To See (Ric Flair vs. Hulk Hogan) . . . Most Conceited Wrestler (Paul Orndorff) . . . Enough Is Enough Award (Cyndi Lauper's involvement in wrestling) . . . Future Most Hated Wrestler (Nikita Koloff). Other suggestions might include Strongest Wrestler, Best (and Worst) TV Program, Most Obnoxious Wrestler, Most Hated Announcer, Feud of the Year, Worst Wrestler (or Match, or Manager, or Tag Team) of the Year, etc. Don't be afraid to be creative and outrageous! A large selection of your best "Unofficial Official Awards" will be presented in the sensational double-issue March 1986 year-end edition of *PWI*. □

OFFICIAL FAN BALLOT

Send ballot to: ACHIEVEMENT '85 VOTE
c/o Pro Wrestling Illustrated, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571

Rookie of the Year: _____

Most Improved Wrestler of the Year: _____

Most Popular Wrestler of the Year: _____

Most Hated Wrestler of the Year: _____

Inspirational Wrestler of the Year: _____

Wrestler of the Year: _____

Tag Team of the Year: _____

Manager of the Year: _____

Match of the Year: _____

My "Unofficial Official" Award for 1985: _____

_____

_____

Name: _____ Age: _____

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We welcome any additional comments you may have, or added suggestions for "Unofficial Official" awards. Feel free to include any remarks you might have on an extra sheet of paper.

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PWI's Top 10 is based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board.

PWI's TOP 10

Magnificent Muraco

SINGLES

1. **RIC FLAIR**
   243, Minneapolis, MN
   NWA World champion
2. **HULK HOGAN**
   302, Venice Beach, CA
   WWF World champion
3. **RICK MARTEL**
   236, Quebec City, Quebec
   AWA World champion
4. **TULLY BLANCHARD**
   235, San Antonio, TX
   U.S. heavyweight champion
5. **DUSTY RHODES**
   302, Austin, TX
   NWA TV champion
6. **NIKITA KOLOFF**
   275, Moscow, Russia
   No. 3 contender to NWA World title
7. **TITO SANTANA**
   245, Mission, TX
   WWF Intercontinental champion
8. **MAGNUM T.A.**
   245, Chesapeake, VA
   No. 1 contender to U.S. title
9. **SGT. SLAUGHTER**
   310, Parris Island, SC
   Americas champion
10. **MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
    274, Sunset Beach, HI
    No. 1 contender to WWF World title

TAG TEAMS

1. **THE ROAD WARRIORS**
   Combined weight: 567 pounds
   AWA World tag team champions
2. **RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON**
   Combined weight: 453 pounds
   NWA World tag team champions
3. **GREG VALENTINE & BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
   Combined weight: 511 pounds
   WWF World tag team champions
4. **CHRIS ADAMS & GINO HERNANDEZ**
   Combined weight: 454 pounds
   World Class tag team champions
5. **OLE & ARN ANDERSON**
   Combined weight: 525 pounds
   National tag team champions
6. **AL PEREZ & WENDELL COOLEY**
   Combined weight: 451 pounds
   Mid-South tag team champions
7. **DENNIS CONDREY & BOBBY EATON**
   Combined weight: 472 pounds
   No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title
8. **WAHOO McDANIEL & BILLY JACK HAYNES**
   Combined weight: 505 pounds
   U.S. tag team champions
9. **BARRY WINDHAM & MIKE ROTUNDO**
   Combined weight: 475 pounds
   No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title
10. **JONATHAN BOYD & RIP MORGAN**
    Combined weight: 542 pounds
    Mid-Southern tag team champions

NWA, AWA, and WWF ratings, in addition to the regional ratings from around the country, are based on the official current position of challengers to the top title in each category. (Certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings). Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and mail that comes to our offices.

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
2—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
3—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
4—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
5—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
6—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
7—**BLACK BART**
301, Houston, TX
8—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX
9—**ICEMAN PARSONS**
242, St. Louis, MO
10—**GINO HERNANDEZ**
224, Houston, TX

AWA

World Champion:
RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec

1—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
2—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
3—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**
245, Beverly Hills, CA
4—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
5—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN
6—**MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA
7—**KAMALA**
360, Uganda
8—**BUCK ZUMHOFE**
222, Hamburg, MN
9—**BORIS ZURKHOV**
254, Leningrad, Russia
10—**RAY STEVENS**
243, San Francisco, CA

WWF

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA

1—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX
2—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HA
3—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
4—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
5—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL
6—**JUNKYARD DOG**
260, New Orleans, LA
7—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Scotland
8—**KING KONG BUNDY**
446, Atlantic City, NJ
9—**JOHN STUDD**
364, Washington, DC
10—**COWBOY BOB ORTON**
245, Kansas City, KS

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

1—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
2—**BLACK BART**
301, Houston, TX
3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
4—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
5—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
6—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
7—**MANNY FERNANDEZ**
245, El Paso, TX
8—**DICK SLATER**
235, Tampa, FL
9—**JIMMY VALIANT**
251, New York, NY
10—**KONGA THE BARBARIAN**
265, Chicago

OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

For period ended September 4, 1985

WORLD CLASS

1—ICEMAN PARSONS
242, St. Louis, MO
2—GINO HERNANDEZ
224, Houston, TX
3—BRUISER BRODY
284, Albuquerque, NM
4—KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX
5—CHRIS ADAMS
230, Stratford, England
6—KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX
7—BRIAN ADIDAS
238, Denton, TX
8—ONE MAN GANG
468, Chicago, IL
9—KABUKI
252, Singapore
10—KILLER BROOKS
235, Lancaster, TX

MID-SOUTH

1—DICK MURDOCH
270, Waxahachie, TX
2—THE NIGHTMARE
285, parts unknown
3—HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, Glens Falls, NY
4—STEVE WILLIAMS
295, Tulsa, OK
5—BUTCH REED
265, Kansas City, MO
6—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NB
5—JAKE ROBERTS
243, Baton Rouge, LA
8—BOB SWEETAN
285, Round Rock, TX
9—DUTCH MANTEL
242, Oil Trough, TX
10—THE MIDNIGHT RIDER
264, parts unknown

FLORIDA

1—RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN
2—KENDELL WINDHAM
220, Sweetwater, TX
3—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX
4—BILLY JACK HAYNES
245, Portland, OR
5—MIKE GRAHAM
229, Tampa, FL
6—JACK HART
230, St. Petersburg, FL
7—RIP OLIVER
245, Tampa, FL
8—SCOTT McGHEE
220, Shipley, England
9—RIP ROGERS
238, Atlanta, GA
10—BUGSY McGRAW
268, New York, NY

MID-SOUTHERN

1—TARRUS BALBA
237, Outer Mongolia
2—KOKO WARE
229, Union City, TN
3—JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN
4—PHIL HICKERSON
238, Jackson, TN
5—BOTA
270, Maori Islands
6—JERRY OSKE
243, Hartford, CT
7—LORD JONATHAN BOYD
255, Aucklund, New Zealand
8—TOJO YAMAMOTO
230, Tokyo, Japan
9—RIP MORGAN
250, Auklund, New Zealand
10—BILLY TRAVIS
218, Houston, TX

MISSOURI

1—HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO
2—MR. POGO
255, Tokyo, Japan
3—JERRY BLACKWELL
474, Stone Mountain, GA
4—BULLDOG BOB BROWN
258, Winnipeg, Manitoba
5—KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX
6—ICEMAN PARSONS
232, St. Louis, MO
7—BUZZ TYLER
285, Rock Hill, SC
8—RUFUS R. JONES
287, Boston, MA
9—AKIO SAITO
249, Japan
10—EDCAR THOMAS
241, Norman, OK

NORTHWEST

1—RICKY VAUGHAN
245, Tampa, FL
2—MIKE MILLER
260, Memphis, TN
3—BOBBY JAGGERS
265, Dunlap, KS
4—STEVE SIMPSON
220, Africa
5—MEGA MAHARISHI
260, Portland, OR
6—PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE
245, Hollywood, CA
7—BILLY TWO EAGLES
223, San Antonio, TX
8—JOE SAVOLDI
232, Parsippany, NJ
9—TIMOTHY FLOWERS
245, New York, NY
10—STEVE PARDEE
232, San Mateo, CA

MOST POPULAR

1—HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA
2—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA
3—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX
4—RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec
5—KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX
6—RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI
7—KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX
8—SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC
9—TERRY TAYLOR
225, Vero Beach, FL
10—BILLY JACK HAYNES
245, Portland, OR

MOST HATED

1—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX
2—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NB
3—MAGNIFICENT MURACO
274, Sunset Beach, HI
4—CHRIS ADAMS
230, Stratford, England
5—RODDY PIPER
231, Glasgow, Scotland
6—NIKITA KOLOFF
276, Moscow, Russia
7—RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL
8—RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN
9—OLE ANDERSON
256, Minneapolis, MN
10—GINO HERNANDEZ
224, Houston, TX

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

The WWF World championship—more reaction! The October 1985 edition of *The Wrestler* was the first of our publications to carry the news that the WWF heavyweight and tag team titles had been upgraded to world title status. It seemed as if the mail began arriving at our offices within minutes of that magazine reaching the newsstands. "Ratings Analysis" in the December 1985 issue of *The Wrestler* included some of your letters praising and chastizing us for our decision regarding those two championships. Here are some more of your letters, pro and con:

Michael Giustino, Pelham, NY: I am outraged about your recent decision to make the WWF title a "world title." The fact that Hulk Hogan only defends against a small amount of rulebreakers and no scientific wrestlers is enough not to make it a world title.

Hulk Hogan

Instead of asking the fans, I think you should have asked wrestlers. I have heard Magnum T.A., Dusty Rhodes, and Ric Flair (the *real* world champion) say they are fed up with Hollywood and rock 'n' roll being involved with wrestling. Many people who have supported this movement are Hogan's fans, and don't think of the good or bad this might do. They just love his body. Or his MTV shows.

You and your sister publications are the best magazines, and you should have thought of this. This whole Hollywood thing could now very possibly spread to smaller independent wrestling promotions. You have now indirectly supported this whole damn thing! Now Vince McMahon may go totally crazy. He sees that this Hollywood thing makes the WWF title a world title. Now we will be seeing more actors and rock stars involved in wrestling.

You have just started a disease, and I hope it will not spread all the way to the AWA and the NWA. Please, for the sake of me and the real wrestling fans, correct this injustice. Now!

***

Calvin Hayden, Bronx, NY: I was very pleased when I looked at "Ratings Analysis" in the October 1985 issue of *The Wrestler* and saw that Hulk Hogan is now being recognized as a world champion. I was also pleased to see that you had done the same thing to the WWF tag team title. I feel that there is no controversy. Hulk Hogan is caught in the same trap as Bob Backlund was when he was WWF World champion. Hogan is being manipulated by the promoter, Vince McMahon. I really believe that if it were up to him, Hogan would defend his title against anyone deserving, be he scientific or rulebreaker.

The reason that Ric Flair and Rick Martel are more respected champions than Hulk Hogan is because the promoters of both the NWA and the AWA allow both men to defend their titles against both rulebreakers and scientific wrestlers (although lately it seems like Martel has been wrestling and defending against only rulebreakers). The NWA and AWA promoters don't care who it is—if a wrestler deserves a shot at the title, he should get one.

If there were some way to get rid of Vince McMahon and put in his place a promoter who would allow Hogan to defend his title against both scientific and rulebreaking wrestlers, then Hogan would get the respect that he deserves.

***

John Newman, Montvale, NJ: I'm writing in response to Billy Baxter and Veronica and Robert Schnickel and thousands of others. I am absolutely *sick* and *tired* of those idiots saying Hulk Hogan is a world champion. Hulk Hogan is nothing but a musclebound freak and a toy for Vince McMahon to give him more money. Hogan faces no one he doesn't have a chance to defeat. He fights no one near the caliber that Ric Flair or Rick Martel face. How can you people even compare Hogan to Flair? Flair is the Real and Only World Champion. Hogan needs actors and rock stars to show how great he is. "Slick" Ric doesn't need anybody to show how great he is; his actions in and out of the ring speak for themselves. And if a Hogan-Flair match ever took place, Hogan would be in intensive care!

If any of you Hulk-a-idiots are swearing under your breath, then why don't you go out there and do something about it? You dimwits should write to McMahon and tell him you want Hogan to fight Flair in a title-unification match. Then we'll see who the true World champion is. And if the truth has finally sunk into those thick skulls of yours, you *won't* write to McMahon in order to protect your "champion" from a humiliating defeat.

Finally, if the WWF heavyweight title is going to be called a world championship, then I suggest all you Hulkamaniacs learn a little history—say, back to June or July of 1980 when Hulk Hogan was beaten by the only man in the WWF who deserved to be called "World Champion," the great Bob Backlund, the *true* WWF World champion. Bobby beat Hogan before, he can do it again.

Hulk Hogan a world champion? Hah hah! I'll die laughing!

The address for mail: We welcome your comments, criticisms, and questions about our ratings system. In particular, we want to continue to hear your opinions regarding the WWF World title controversy. Send your letters to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated;* Box 48; Rockville Centre; New York 11571. □

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